

Hafa Adai!

PDO likens it to time after Soudelor, Yutu. PAGE 3
Kilili: CW workers should also obtain unemployment benefits. PAGE 5

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Payless Friday for PSS

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

The Public School System will not be able to make payroll payments today and over 800 locally funded teachers and other personnel will experience a payless Friday.

According to a memorandum from Education Commissioner Dr. Alfred Ada that was sent out yesterday, he said that PSS will be unable to make payroll for all locally funded PSS employees today due to the unavailability of funds prompted by the cur-

rent economic and financial crisis.

On top of missing a payroll, PSS is also still unable to pay the 30% it owes in PSS salaries from the last payroll.

"Rest assured that, as soon as funds See PAYLESS on Page 4

'Accusations against BOE are false'

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A group of Public School System personnel have signed on to a letter that slams Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and tells retirees that the governor's claims are false and that the injunction the Board of Education initiated against the administration is not the reason why the retirees' pensions can't be met.

According to the letter, which was signed by PSS personnel and sent out by Alex Borja, the claims stated in both Torres' letter and Facebook video are "divisive during this tremendous hardship and a time when the community should be coming together."

"We are deeply affronted at the false accusations and harmful rhetoric directed toward our three Board of Education members—Marylou Ada, Andrew Orsini, and Phillip Mendiola-Long—who had the courage and integrity to stand up for the over 10,000 students and over 1,000

educators by seeking to uphold the constitutional mandate which was overwhelmingly ratified by the voters of the CNMI in 2015 and recently interpreted in the certified question

See BOE on Page 4

'Where's the money?'

» Let's talk about the community benefit fund

By IVA MAURIN
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REPORTER

With the dwindling CNMI budget and talks of cutting government costs by 50%, the 25% cut on pension for government retirees, and the Public School System wanting to secure 25% of the general revenue, the House of Representatives minority bloc is asking: Where is the community benefit fund?

See MONEY on Page 4

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LOCAL

E-Land Group and Micronesia Resort Inc. donates 445 aid packages to families in need.

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NATION

President Trump is falling back on a familiar political strategy: deflect, deny, and blame.

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OFF THE WALL

Un-baaaaa-lievable: This wild bunch is completely ignoring rules on social distancing.

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Local

E-Land Group donates 445 aid packages

By CHEVY ALIPIO
alipiochevykate@gmail.com
REPORTER

Three sister hotels under the E-Land Group and its local holding company, Micronesia Resort Inc., donated 445 aid packages and other grocery items yesterday to the CNMI government for distribution to families in need, turning over the donation in a ceremony at the façade of the shuttered Coral Ocean Point resort.

Kensington Hotel Saipan, Pacific Islands Club Saipan, and Coral Ocean Golf Resort partnered with the Department of Community and Cultural

Affairs to facilitate the distribution of the grocery packs to the families through the CNMI Nutrition Assistance Program.

Each package contains a pack of rice, different canned goods, toilet paper, butane gas, and soap.

Lindsay Ahn, Corporate Responsibility manager of Micronesia Resort Inc., said the company came up with the idea of making the donation due to the financial and economic crisis facing the CNMI community due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"We think of this donation as a way of saying that we are

in this together," she said.

Brian Shin, chief executive officer of Micronesia Resort Inc., said this is the most challenging situation in his entire career in this industry.

"Even though the business is going through the severest downturn, we will never leave the community unprioritized. I feel our hearts are connected closer despite the negativity and sadness going around the world, and we would like to do what we can to bring a little bit of warmth and hope to people in the CNMI," he said.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, who was present during the

distribution, said the donation "will help families get

through the day."

PIC, one of E-Land Group's

hotels, is already serving as a quarantine site.



KRIZEL TUAZON

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and Lt. Gov. Arnold Palacios receive on behalf of the CNMI government the E-Land Group donation of canned goods from Micronesia Resort Inc. chief executive officer Brian Shin, Pacific Islands Club Saipan general manager Gloria Cavanagh, and other E-Land Group officials yesterday at the front of the Coral Ocean Point hotel-resort.

May this Easter bring untold happiness and joy in your life knowing that even when we feel like giving up, there is still hope for resurrection.

Happy Easter

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IN TIME OF COVID-19

PDO likens it to time after Soudelor, Yutu

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie.delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

For the Office of the Public Defender, the things they are doing to overcome the challenges in the time of the COVID-19 pandemic can be likened to what they did in the wake of the devastations of Typhoon Soudelor and Super Typhoon Yutu.

Chief Public Defender Douglas Hartig said yesterday that they are doing what they can under the current restrictions to fulfill their constitutionally mandated duties.

As part of social distancing rules required of individuals, there are times when clients need to wait outside PDO in a covered area until they are able to see them, said Hartig in response to questions about how they are managing their cases during this crisis.

Hartig said they are following restricted staffing in

GRMC's outpatient services and new entrance requisites

DEDEDOD, Guam—The Guam Regional Medical City would like to announce the following services that are still available to outpatients.

Our Specialty Services unit remains open for new and follow up appointments with Cardiology, Pulmonology, Infectious Disease, Orthopedics, Oncology and Hematology, Neuroscience, Pediatric Hematology and Oncology, and General Surgery. We continue to provide outpatient procedures such as echocardiogram, Zio patch continuous cardiac monitoring, stress tests, Pulmonary function tests, sleep tests, radiology and lab work. We will also continue infusion services (for antibiotic and chemotherapy) and radiation therapy. Our Rehabilitation department will resume seeing patients at this time.

To ensure social distancing, GRMC has been actively reducing patient visits to the hospital, prioritizing those in need of more acute follow up. Outpatients requiring less urgent follow up will be contacted and offered the option of a Telehealth visit. Telehealth allows patients to participate in audio/visual appointments at home via computer, tablet, or smartphone. Patients without internet can request their appointment take place by telephone.

Although GRMC has sus-

order to keep contact within the office minimal and to ensure social distancing. He said they also continue to follow recommended hand washing, sanitizing, and wearing masks when they can.

The chief public defender said they are working with the courts to keep cases proceeding through the use of electronic and telephonic communication as well as with the Department of Corrections so that they may maintain client contact while following social distancing recommendations.

Hartig said they have shortened business hours to allow for continued self-isolation so the PDO is open from 9am to 3pm but their lawyers are still working within the office or at home beyond those hours.

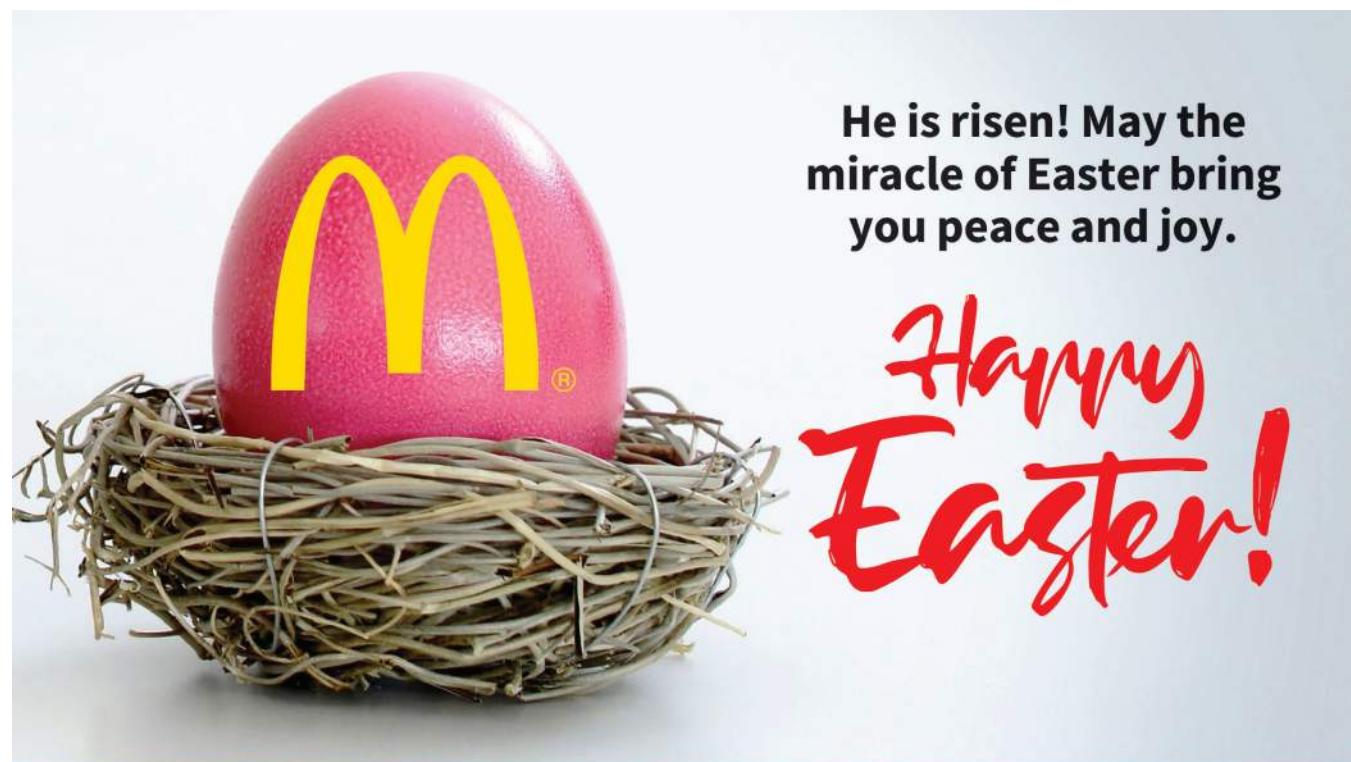
"We at PDO are up and running and serving the public in these difficult times," Hartig said.

suspended visitation, outpatients who require assistance getting to their appointments will be allowed one companion. The only other exception to the suspended visitation policy will be children brought to the Emergency Room, who may be accompanied by one parent or legal guardian.

GRMC would like to remind the community that visitors are no longer allowed to wait in the surgical lobby on the second floor. Our staff will obtain the name and contact number of the person(s) we should notify when surgical patients are ready to be safely discharged. Our current morgue policy limiting viewings to no more than five (5) people remains in place.

However, per Executive Order 2020-09, everyone must wear a mask. We ask the public to please be aware that GRMC cannot provide masks as our supplies must be conserved for healthcare workers. Everyone entering GRMC must also be pre-screened. Anyone not wearing a mask or refusing to be screened will be denied entry.

GRMC regrets any inconvenience or hardship but these measures are necessary to keep everyone as safe as possible. We appreciate the community's understanding as we work together to combat the coronavirus. (PR)



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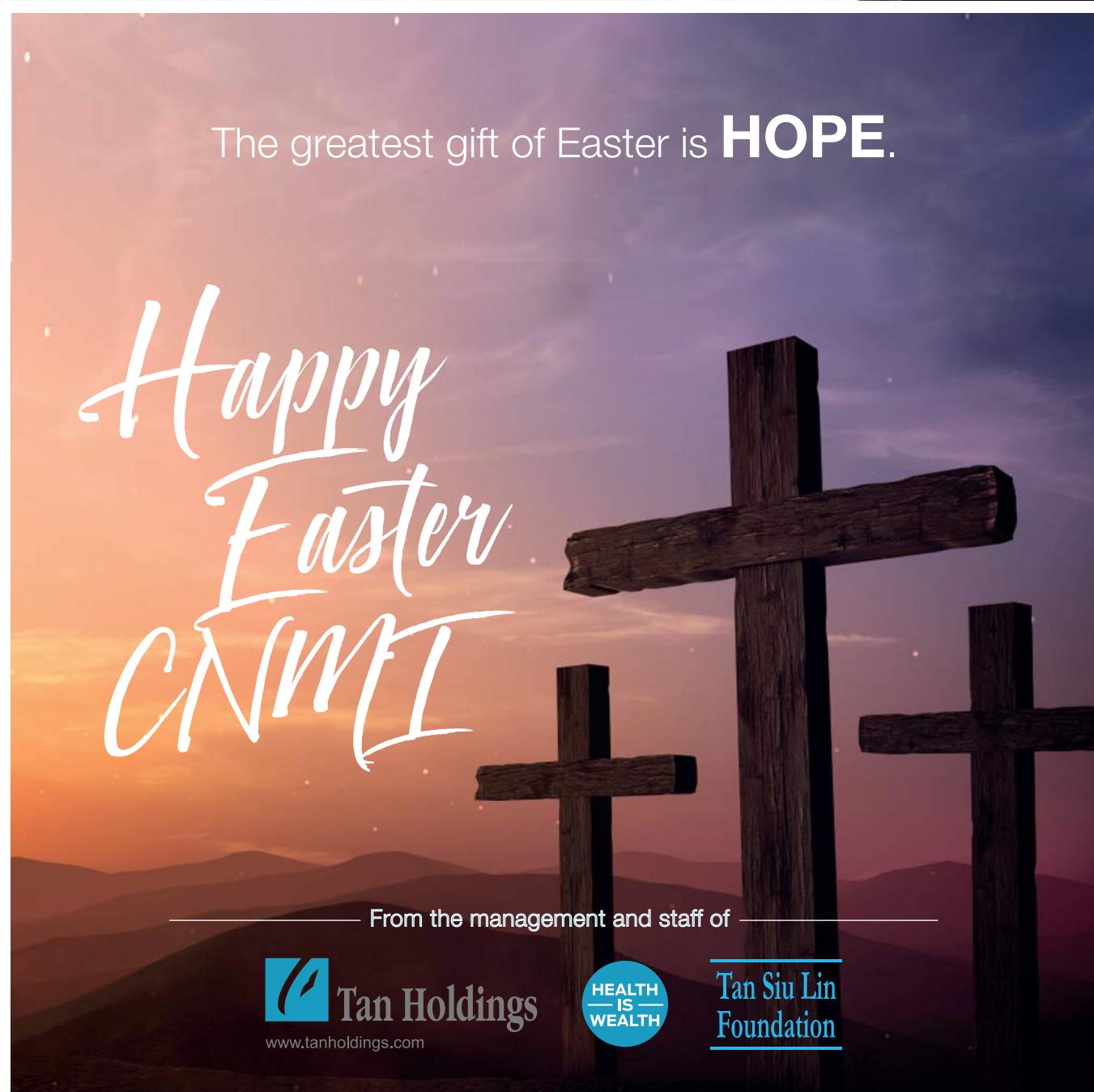
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The PSS personnel assured retirees that they support them. "We wish to express our gratitude for your many years of service and countless contributions you have made to the CNMI. It saddens us that our government, due to various circumstances, but most especially the current pandemic that has crippled the entire world economy, will not be able to keep its promise to maintain the additional 25% of the court mandated 75% of the Settlement Fund for you, our re-

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In related news, multiple teachers confirmed that the PSS administration held a staff meeting last Wednesday, informing locally funded PSS personnel that they would be furloughed because PSS is unable to make payments due to the dwindling funds.

The furlough announcement was verbal and Ada has yet to respond to *Saipan Tribune*'s multiple attempts to contact him, as of 6pm press time yesterday.

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CHCC

From Page 1

to the CNMI by the U.S. military and Federal Emergency Management Agency last April 4 as part of medical supplies and equipment, from the Strategic National Stockpile.

According to Torres, following the supplies that the CNMI received last Saturday, the CNMI received another shipment of supplies, including personal protective equipment and gowns for nurses, doctors, and first responders yesterday.

The CNMI's resources are being flown in by FEMA in partnership with the U.S. Department of Defense, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

"I want to thank our health care professionals, Esther Muna [CHCC chief executive officer], doctors and nurses, and all of our first responders," said Torres.

Torres said more CHCC projects will be coming up this Saturday, April 11, and next week.

According to a statement on the CNMI Office of the Governor Facebook page, the CNMI is reported to be the first U.S. territory to set up a field hospital.

As of 5pm, April 9, the CNMI has 45 specimens for COVID-19 testing. A total of 37 out of 48 have already been tested, leaving the CNMI with 11 positive COVID-19 cases, 27 negative, one specimen for retesting, six pending specimens, and two deaths.

COVID-19 in Guam

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CHCC

From Page 1

to the CNMI by the U.S. military and Federal Emergency Management Agency last April 4 as part of medical supplies and equipment, from the Strategic National Stockpile.

According to Torres, following the supplies that the CNMI received last Saturday, the CNMI received another shipment of supplies, including personal protective equipment and gowns for nurses, doctors, and first responders yesterday.

The CNMI's resources are being flown in by FEMA in partnership with the U.S. Department of Defense, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

"I want to thank our health care professionals, Esther Muna [CHCC chief executive officer], doctors and nurses, and all of our first responders," said Torres.

Torres said more CHCC projects will be coming up this Saturday, April 11, and next week.

According to a statement on the CNMI Office of the Governor Facebook page, the CNMI is reported to be the first U.S. territory to set up a field hospital.

As of 5pm, April 9, the CNMI has 45 specimens for COVID-19 testing. A total of 37 out of 48 have already been tested, leaving the CNMI with 11 positive COVID-19 cases, 27 negative, one specimen for retesting, six pending specimens, and two deaths.

COVID-19 in Guam

Kilili: CW workers should also obtain unemployment benefits

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) is still working to make sure that foreign workers in the Marianas—also called CW workers—receive the Pandemic Unemployment Assistance provided in the recently enacted CARES Act.

"CW workers and the businesses that employ them are essential to the Marianas economy," Sablan said. "Making sure those workers have some means of support, even if their employing businesses have closed temporarily because of the coronavirus, will make it possible for the

Marianas to recover more quickly, once the health crisis has passed."

The CARES Act does not specifically include or exclude CW workers from eligibility for unemployment assistance. Sablan is working in Washington, D.C. to assure that the U.S. Department of Labor implements the law in a way that will include CW workers.

The CARES Act requires that an individual worker be able and available to work



Sablan

CK person arrested for alleged criminal mischief, disturbance

On Thursday, April 9, 2020, at about 4:15am, the CNMI Department of Public Safety received a 911 call reporting a disturbing the peace in progress in the village of Chalan Kanoa on Saipan. Moments later, a unit doing routine patrol through Chalan Kanoa was flagged down by an elderly male, who told police that he had just called for police assistance for his neighbor.



Defang

Police made their way to the witnesses' apartment unit and verified that the witnesses were okay and unharmed. The witness stated that he and his girlfriend were asleep when

they were awakened by a creaking noise. As they were about to look out their room's window, they noticed that it appeared to be opening slowly. When the witness looked out the window, he

noticed a heavily built dark-complexioned male, wearing a pair of orange shorts and a gray T-shirt, running away from the window.

A few moments later, the witness decided to take out the trash. As the witness was walking toward the outside trash bin, he noticed the same individual he saw earlier walking back to

his (witness) apartment. As soon as the suspect was close enough to see the witness' face, he ran to a neighboring unit. The witness then called for police assistance.

Other responding units managed to find the suspect within a neighboring apartment unit. At about 4:28am, the witness positively identified the suspect as Stanis Defang, who was arrested and brought to the Department of Corrections where he was booked and detained. (PR)

Ex-cop allegedly beat up 13-year-old for watching porn

A former police officer allegedly slapped and punched a 13-year-old boy in the face and head several times for watching porn at a house in Chalan Kanoa.

Juan Roligat Limes, 48, was arrested on charges of child abuse and neglect and disturbing the peace.

At a hearing at the Supreme Court courtroom Wednesday afternoon, Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho imposed a \$10,000 cash bail. The Office of the Public Defender was appointed as counsel for Limes. Preliminary hearing will be on April 17 at 10am.

According to police detective Rosa T. Rios in her report, a police officer responded to a store in Chalan Kanoa last Tuesday and met the boy's stepmother who filed the complaint. The complainant said that she witnessed Limes beating up the boy Monday night. The boy, who had bruises on his face, was taken to the hospital for further evaluation as he complained of headache and numbness in his head and face. (Ferdie de la Torre)

Limes was then arrested.

The complainant said she heard multiple "smacking" sounds coming from a bedroom. The complainant said she then saw Limes repeatedly slapping and punching the boy. She pushed Limes away, then the boy ran behind her.

Limes allegedly continued throwing punches at the boy and, according to the complainant, she was hit at one point in the neck.

The complainant said that Limes claimed he was upset after he caught the boy watching porn.

The complainant said it was the second child abuse report against Limes this year and that she was deeply hurt to see what Limes had done to the boy.

In April 2006, then-associate judge Juan T. Lizama sentenced Limes to 20 days in prison for beating up his wife and another woman in two separate incidents on Christmas Eve of 2004.

When the incidents happened, Limes was an off-duty police detective, according to court records. (Ferdie de la Torre)

from the staff and management of

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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May the Resurrection of our Savior
be a constant reminder of His love
and promise of eternal life.

Happy Easter!



OAG warns public: Increased number of car thefts

The Office of the Attorney General has seen an increase in reports of stolen cars.

These cases are largely crimes of opportunity by younger individuals acting in a group. In 2019, a total of six theft of vehicle charges

were received by the OAG. In the first three months of 2020, the office received five reported cases of stolen vehicles. The Office of the Attorney General is taking this opportunity to remind everyone how they can do their part to

reduce the likelihood of cars being stolen.

Did you know that CNMI traffic laws make it a crime to leave your car running while you go into a store? The Commonwealth Code, as written by the Legislature, provides

that it is a traffic violation. Found in Title 6, section 5606, the law states: "No person operating or in charge of a motor vehicle may permit it to stand unattended without first stopping the engine, locking the ignition, removing the ignition key, and, when standing upon any grade, turning the front wheels to the curb or side of the highway."

Attorney General Edward Manibusan reminds all motorists to "turn off your car engine and take the key with you as it serves several important purposes, such as avoiding

wasting valuable gas, reducing unnecessary exhaust that pollutes our air, avoid endangering others with an accident from an unattended running vehicle, and minimizing the opportunity for others to enter the car and steal it."

In several of the recent stolen car cases, the vehicles were not running, but the owner left the keys in the car. Thieves will sometimes use those keys to drive off the car. Some thieves take the keys and come back later, stealing the car at night. In most of these cases, the cars were

damaged by reckless driving and personal property was stolen. That reckless driving can also damage public property or injure innocent victims.

"We don't want to prosecute citations against people who leave their cars running outside their home or a store. We want car owners to get educated and act responsibly, helping avoid the loss and damage of their valuable cars," Manibusan said. "Let's watch out for each other by following the laws, making our roads safer, and protecting your property from theft." (PR)



TRASH FIRE

Firefighters extinguish the fire that occurred at a trash bin near a house along Enrique Street near the corner of Texas Road in Chalan Kanoa last Monday morning. Firefighters immediately prevented the blaze from spreading. The Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services has yet to release information about the cause of the fire.



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Office of the Executive Director

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS CUC-IFB-19-036, REV. 1

MANNED SECURITY and ELECTRONIC MONITORING SERVICES

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), Office of the Executive Director is soliciting competitive bids from qualified firms to provide Manned Security and Electronic Monitoring Services for various sites at CUC, Saipan and Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set. If you have previously purchased CUC-IFB-19-036, no purchase is needed but will still have to register in order to receive the package.

Contractors must provide proof of "Indemnity Liability Insurance," specifically covering security workers assigned to CUC's compound. Coverage must be a minimum of \$200,000.00. The Contractor shall agree to and indemnify and hold CUC harmless from and against all liability, loss, damage or injury, and all cost and expenses (including attorneys' fees and costs of any suit related thereto) suffered or incurred by the Cooperative, arising from or related to Contractor's negligent performance under the contract.

Proponents shall provide a certification signed by a principal of the company stating that the company is currently in full compliance with all applicable CNMI and Federal Labor Laws and has been for the past Five (5) years. Proponents shall submit a listing of all of its employees (US & Foreign) with corresponding job titles and a certification of good standing from the CNMI Department of Labor. Failure of the company to provide the certification is grounds to reject the entire Bid.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-19-036-Rev.1, Security Guard Services", to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST, Saipan Time) on April 14, 2020**. Late submissions of Bids will not be considered.

This Invitation for bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of Bid in anticipation of a contract. This request and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. All responses to this Invitation for bids should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the Proponent, awarded a contract.

All Proponents are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Proponents due to lack of information or understanding of the Bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a Bid under the contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered Proponents and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST, Saipan Time) on March 25, 2020** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to John Mafnas, CUC Contracting Specialist via email address john.mafnas@cucgov.org and Christie Sablan, CUC P&S, Purchasing Technician, Senior – christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and waive any defects in the said bids, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids submitted shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY BOYER SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

Ataligs withdraw subpoenas on OAG, OPA

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Rota Mayor Efraim M. Atalig and his girlfriend, Evelyn Atalig, have withdrawn their two subpoenas addressed to the CNMI Office of the Attorney General's Criminal Division and Office of the Public Auditor.

David G. Banes, counsel for Efraim Atalig, and assistant U.S. attorney Eric O'Malley, counsel for the U.S. government, informed the U.S. District Court for the NMI Wednesday that the two subpoenas have been taken back.

Banes and O'Malley asked the court to take the April 29 hearing on the U.S. government's motion to quash the subpoenas off-calendar.

With the parties' request, Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona issued an order Wednesday denying as moot the U.S. government's motion to quash the subpoenas. Manglona va-

cated the April 29 hearing.

Last March 26, Manglona granted the U.S. government's motion to stay or freeze the execution of the two subpoenas temporarily until such time that the court has ruled on the U.S. government's motion to quash the two.

In the U.S. government's motion to quash, O'Malley said the first subpoena was addressed to the CNMI OAG's Criminal Division and sought the entire personnel records of OPA criminal investigator Travis Hurst. The second subpoena was addressed to the OPA and sought the entire personnel records of Hurst, Edward R. Cabrera, and Juan Santos.

O'Malley disclosed that Travis, Cabrera, and Santos are criminal investigators for OPA, who participated in the investigation of this case and may testify as witnesses for the U.S. government. Before joining OPA, Hurst worked

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Attorney for Commonwealth Development Authority

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY,) Plaintiff,) CIVIL ACTION NO. 12-0078 v.) NOTICE OF POSTPONEMENT ESTATE OF VICENTE C. CASTRO, et al.,) OF AUCTION Defendants.)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, in keeping with the recommendations of the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force to protect public health, the public auction of the remaining leasehold interest in the following real property, previously noticed to take place on April 14, 2020, at 2:00 p.m., at the Commonwealth Development Authority Conference Room located in Oleai, Saipan, CNMI, has been POSTPONED INDEFINITELY and will not take place unless and until it is re-noticed:

55-year leasehold interest, dated December 11, 1991, in:

Part of E.A. 220, situated in Talofofo area, Saipan, Mariana Islands, and further described as follows:

Beginning at a Corner 1 which is North 76-00-17 W, a distance of 1236.64 meters from a triangulation station "CAMP":

Thence S 02° 03' 37" E,	105.42 meters to Corner 2;
Thence S 82° 25' 44" E,	225.25 meters to Corner 3;
Thence S 02° 05' 45" W,	79.30 meters to Corner 4;
Thence S 68° 36' 09" E,	15.85 meters to Corner 5;
Thence N 42° 34' 32" E,	347.07 meters to Corner 6;
Thence N 88° 31' 25" W,	604.33 meters to Corner 1; the point of beginning.

Containing an area of 90,712.0 square meters, more or less, and being situated on land Square 6, Section 2, Units 1, m, and n, as shown in APWO Drawing No. 11406 on file and with the Clerk of Courts, Saipan District.

Dated this 8th day of April, 2020.

/s/ Miller Law Office, LLC
by Richard C. Miller, Esq.

The prosecutor argued that the information sought by the subpoena relates to employee personnel records, disclosure of which may raise privacy issues or reveal information protected by law or confidentiality agreements.

O'Malley said the subpoenas were issued to CNMI agencies and that it was (and still is) unclear whether those agencies had the ability to file a motion without first being admitted to the District Court.

He said efforts to obtain the necessary documentation for admission of the OPA attorney have been frustrated by the coronavirus-related shutdowns.

O'Malley said the U.S. government has an interest in preventing defendants from harassing its witnesses in this case.

The charges against Efraim and Evelyn Atalig involve at least eight trips taken by the couple at different times in 2018 to Guam, Palau, the U.S. mainland, South Korea, and Saipan.

The Ataligs are charged jointly with conspiracy to commit wire fraud and theft from program receiving federal funds, wire fraud, and theft from program receiving federal funds. Both are also charged separately with false statement.

Manglona recently ordered the postponement of the jury trial due to the coronavirus pandemic.

THINGS TO KNOW

As of April 9, 2020. All information may change without prior notice. For corrections and additions to this list, send an email to editor@saipantribune.com or chevy_alipio@saipantribune.com, or call 235-6397 or 235-2440.

USDA RESOURCES

■ The U.S. Department of Agriculture implements immediate measures to help rural residents, businesses and communities affected by COVID-19. Read about it at https://www.rd.usda.gov/sites/default/files/USDA_RD_SA_COVID19_ProgramImmediateActions04082020.pdf.

■ The U.S. Department of Agriculture expands provisions for lenders to offer temporary exceptions to payment deferrals for agency guaranteed loan programs. See full details at https://www.rd.usda.gov/sites/default/files/USDA_RD_SA_COVID19_Guarantee_Loan_DeferalPayments04082020.pdf.

PREPARE DOCS NOW

Those planning to apply for the Pandemic Unemployment Assistance program should prepare these documents now:

- certification letter from their employer
- valid ID with photo
- passport
- copies of the latest paycheck stubs
- Social Security number

WHO UPDATE

■ Advice on the use of masks in the context of COVID-19. See link at www.saipantribune.com.

BANK HOURS

■ Bank of Hawaii: Monday to Friday-9am to 1pm (Saturdays closed)

■ Bank of Guam Chalan Kanoa: Closed temporarily

■ Bank of Guam Garapan: Monday to Friday-9am-1pm; Saturday

closed

- First Hawaiian Bank Oleai: Monday to Friday—9am-1pm; Saturday closed
- First Hawaiian Bank Gualo Rai: Monday to Friday—9am- 1pm; Saturday closed

U.S. POSTAL SERVICE

- USPS Chalan Kanoa: Monday to Friday—8:30am-4pm; Sat 9am-12pm
- USPS San Vicente: Monday to Friday - 12pm-5:30pm; Sat 12pm-3pm

SUPERMARKETS

- For a list of the status of open and closed stores and those with limited hours, go to https://docs.google.com/document/d/1fyRm2XtrIPg7hQ_XN_YbesQYP6lxVwghB_xAXRz44xI/edit

RESTAURANTS

- For a list of the status of open and closed restaurants and those with limited hours, go to https://docs.google.com/document/d/1O8TVlgGVM-vX-AT5a_o0Eac3tftLTjL2AV4iPem0Zqdo/edit

OTHER BUSINESS:

- For a list of their status, go to <https://docs.google.com/document/d/15zg5hv22fh0KWoLQgasVbbdjeJrpD5FhdzgiBoW0/edit>

MEDICAL SERVICES

- For a list of the status of open and closed medical services and those with limited hours, go to <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1OGsdjlau3mY8HABuqkioiTq0j9z7L48FMpYdD8htU/edit>

HOTELS

- For a partial list of the status of open and closed hotels and those with limited hours, go to https://docs.google.com/document/d/1O9fTmFzlsI-zev7M6YbPS_

xHiqvNxrxUKlh0v42GkE/edit

RESOURCES

- Demystifying the CARES ACT: A primer for businesses. Plus Saipan Chamber of Commerce updates. See <https://myemail.constantcontact.com/De-mystifying-the-CARES-ACT-and-Local-Updates.html?soid=1129193858340&aid=0EXsNhZzzs>
- For more information about DIY face coverings, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html>.

- Commonwealth Health Care Corp. services. See link at www.saipantribune.com.
- Frequently-asked-questions about direct assistance under CARES Act. See link at www.saipantribune.com.

- Needing mental health tips? See link at www.saipantribune.com.

- Announcement about reopening of boat ramps and docks. See link at www.saipantribune.com.

- Announcement about reopening of public beaches and pathways. See link at www.saipantribune.com.

- Avoid COVID-19 scams: Attorney General Edward Manibusan issues alert of coronavirus disease (COVID-19) scams. See link at www.saipantribune.com.

Settlement Fund office hours

The Settlement Fund office has reduced its service hours to half day. We are still restricting access to the public and will continue to receive and respond to inquiries by phone, fax and email *only* from 8am to 1pm, Monday – Friday. Fund staff will be available to assist members only by telephone, fax, or email. Contact Information for the Settlement Fund: tel: (670) 322-3863; fax: (670) 664-8080; email: info@nmisf.com. (PR)
Source: Compiled by Saipan Tribune/Chevy Alipio

House minority bloc to Torres: Prohibit evictions

By IVA MAURIN
iva_maurin@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

required to inform their landlords of their incapacity to pay due to COVID-19.

In a letter dated March 20, the minority bloc asked Torres to “prohibit any evictions of residential and commercial tenants, along with late fees and penalties, as the community reels from the brunt of the COVID-19 pandemic in the CNMI.”

The group of legislators are asking Torres to follow the lead of California Gov. Gavin Newsom, who issued an executive order prohibiting landlords from evicting tenants for non-payment, until May 31, 2020; where tenants are

people of American Samoa.”

The funds will be divided as follows:

- American Samoa Government Operations: \$6,410,634
- Lyndon B. Johnson Tropical Medical Center: \$4,436,011
- American Samoa Community College: \$762,790
- High Court Operations: \$223,565

Made available each year by Congress, the American Samoa Government Operations grant is provided through the Office of Insular Affairs on behalf of the federal government. The full amount provided by Congress for American Samoa government operations in fiscal year 2020 is \$23,665,000. Initial payments of the fiscal year 2020 funding totaling \$11,832,000 have already been paid to the American Samoa government starting in the fall of 2019.

economic decline, minority leader Edwin K. Propst (Ind-Saipan), said that the program will take some time to set up and for the people in the CNMI to receive the benefits.

“This is all the more reason why we need to ensure we don’t see our people being evicted right now,” Propst said.

He said that time is of the essence, and that “many of our people do not have time, as they are being evicted this month. Some have already been served eviction notices and have been told to vacate their rentals immediately.”

A. Samoa awarded \$11.8M for government operations

For more information about the OIA Budget, visit: <https://www.doi.gov/sites/doi.gov/files/uploads/oya-2021-green-book-final.pdf>

For more information about the work of the Office of Insular Affairs, visit <http://www.doi.gov/oya> or follow on Twitter @ASIADomenech. (PR)

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We are applying strict distancing measures to protect your health and safety, our Gualo Rai location is open from 8am-1pm from Monday-Saturday.

We are also available for payment and inquiries by the following:

Through Customer Care at 488-CARE,
Email: customercare@docomopacific.com
or
Payment Dropbox located outside of our Gualo Rai store.



COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
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E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS FOR ARCHITECTURAL/ENGINEERING DESIGN SERVICES

TINIAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT PARKING LOT EXPANSION PROJECT NO. CPA-TA-001-20

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting statements of professional qualifications from interested Consultants for Architectural and Engineering (A/E) Design Services for expansion of the parking lot at the Tinian International Airport on the island of Tinian, Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands.

The project is being funded by CPA. This project is in accordance with CPA's Procurement Rules and Regulations and procedures shall be in full compliance with Section 40-50-202 Architect-Engineer Design and Construction Management Services.

The Request for Qualification (RFQ) Package is available at CPA's Office of the Executive Director, 2nd floor of the arrival terminal. No fee is required for obtaining the proposal package.

Questions regarding this request for RFQ are to be submitted to Ms. Wendi L. Prater, CPA Executive Assistant/Project Manager, via hand delivery to the CPA Administration Office, faxed to (670) 234-5962 or emailed to wprater@cpa.gov.mp by no later than Friday, March 27, 2020, 5:00 p.m., local time.

Interested Consultants are requested to submit one (1) original, four (4) copies and one (1) electronic version in .pdf of their statements of professional qualifications no later than **5:00 p.m., THURSDAY, APRIL 16, 2020**. Statements of qualification must be presented by a combination of both brochures and the use of current U.S. Government Standard Form 330.

The statements of professional qualification will be evaluated based on the criteria available in the RFQ package.

The CPA reserves the right to reject any or all statements of professional qualification for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so would be in its best interest.

/s/ CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

Date: March 11, 2020



COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
San Jose Village • P.O. Box 502149 • Saipan, MP 96950
Tel. Nos: (670) 234-7145/7146/6293/6245 • Fax No: (670) 235-7147
Website: www.developcnmi.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, notice is hereby given that the Commonwealth Development Authority is postponing until further notice the public auction scheduled for April 14, 2020, at 2:00 p.m. at the Commonwealth Development Authority Conference Room.



CNMI to use Hawaii lab services for COVID-19 testing

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Health Care Corp. said Wednesday night that the Commonwealth Health Center will begin to use Diagnostic Laboratory Services in Honolulu, Hawaii for specimen testing of COVID-19 in addition to the Guam Public Health Laboratory.

Specimens sent for testing will follow the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services three-level testing strategy:

PRIORITY 1:

- Hospitalized patients and healthcare facility workers with symptoms

PRIORITY 2:

- Patients in long-term care facilities with symptoms
- Patients 65 years of age or older with symptoms
- Patients with underlying conditions with symptoms
- First responders with symptoms

PRIORITY 3:

- Critical infrastructure workers with symptoms;
- Individuals who do not meet any of the above categories with symptoms;
- Health care facility workers and first responders;
- Individuals with mild symptoms in communities experiencing high numbers of COVID-19 hospitalizations.

With the exception of a few specimens submitted to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the State of Hawaii Laboratory earlier this year, the majority of specimens taken from CNMI residents have been tested

at the GPHL, which was the identified regional laboratory with high complexity capability for COVID-19. However, due to the recent increase of COVID-19 cases in Guam and the outbreak on the USS *Theodore Roosevelt*, which is currently docked in Guam, "the GPHL is unable to respond to our testing needs, which is not for a lack of their effort, nor desire; it is simply an outcome of increased work and limited human resources," CHCC said in the statement.

Since the beginning of the CNMI response, CHCC has to-date collected 45 specimens; however, of these specimens, one was not viable and thus moving forward, CHCC will now report specimens collected for testing without this unviable specimen.

CHCC would like to remind the public that this pandemic is affecting many countries' specimen testing capabilities. The CNMI's geographic location and small population have always influenced the scale of health care services and laboratory testing capabilities available in our community.

The global scientific and laboratory response to the COVID-19 pandemic has allowed for the introduction and fast-tracking of the newest technologies, which will provide smaller and remote jurisdictions like ours with testing capabilities that can be implemented on our islands. CHCC is actively pursuing multiple testing solutions with the goal of not only being able to provide testing for our community, but to also ensure a solution that is sustainable and not dependent on external organizations. (PR)

COVID-19 REFUNDABLE TAX CREDIT "STIMULUS CHECK" WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

President Trump signed the CARES Act, bipartisan legislation that provides tax-free payments to give individuals and families the relief they need, including residents of the Marianas.

Governor Torres and the nation's governors worked with the White House and Congress on this relief package.

How much will you get?

- Individuals earning up to \$75,000 will receive \$1,200.
- Couples earning up to \$150,000 will receive \$2,400.
- For every child in the household, you will receive \$500.
- If you made more than \$75,000, your payment will be reduced by \$5 for every \$100 of income that exceeds the limits. (Ex. If you made \$80,000 in 2019, you will receive \$950.)
- The payment decreases to zero for an individual making \$99,000 or more or a couple making \$198,000 or more.

How will the money be sent?

- Stimulus checks will be issued via direct deposit or by check and mailed to the address indicated on the return, or last known address. Taxpayers will not be contacted to provide bank account information. The Department of Finance will provide additional public guidance before disbursement.

I'm on Social Security, or don't make enough to file a tax return. Will I get a check?

- Yes. Even if you didn't file a tax return for 2018 or 2019 or pay taxes in those years, you will be eligible if you received a Form SSA-1099 for the year 2019.

I'm a college student. Do I get a check?

- If you've been working and filing taxes independently in recent years, you may qualify. If your parents claim you as a dependent on their taxes, you're ineligible.

I'm behind on child support payments. Does that affect me?

- Yes, the IRS may reduce the amount you receive if you have past due child support payments that have been reported to the Treasury Department.

I'm not an American citizen. Do I qualify?

- Yes, as long as you're living and working in the U.S. with a valid Social Security number. That includes green card holders, and it generally includes those on work visas, such as a CW, H-1B, or H-2A.
- But it generally excludes visitors and people who are in the U.S. illegally.



- Please stay home and avoid unnecessary travel as much as possible.
- If you feel sick or if someone in your home is sick, stay home. Do not go to work. Avoid social gatherings. Contact your personal doctor or call the COVID-19 Info Line at 285-1542, 285-1672, 285-1352, or 285-1854.
- If you are an older person (*man'amko*), you are more vulnerable to becoming severely ill with the virus. Stay home and away from other people as much as possible.
- If you are a person with a preexisting illness (such as asthma, diabetes, and heart disease), you are more vulnerable to becoming severely ill with the virus. Stay home and away from other people as much as possible.
- Work or do schoolwork from home whenever possible and reasonable.
- Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.
- Avoid eating out at restaurants, use drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options.
- Continue practicing good hygiene:
 - Wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
 - Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not available.
 - Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when coughing or sneezing.
 - Avoid touching your face.
 - Disinfect frequently used items (cellphones, computers, household items) as much as possible.

Source: Office of the Governor

APRIL 10, 2005

Another marijuana plantation raided

Authorities raided another marijuana plantation in Koblerville and seized some 270 full-grown plants Saturday morning, days after conducting a similar raid in Kagman II. Elements of the CNMI-Drug Enforcement Administration Task Force scored a bigger seizure in Saturday's raid, with the Department of Public Safety estimating the value of the plants at \$200,000. Operatives conducted the raid based on information received by the Crime Stoppers, according to DPS spokesman Eric David. The marijuana plantation belongs to a Koblerville resident, whom police did not identify as of press time. The raid followed another operation in Kagman II last Wednesday, where task force members, including those from the DPS' Special Investigation Section, seized some 64 marijuana plants.

Alien worker allowed to look for new job

The Department of Labor allowed an alien worker to seek a new job after finding that her prospective employer was not entitled to hire an additional nonresident worker due to financial insolvency. Labor hearing officer Jerry Cody gave Gilda P. Castaldo 45 days to have a new employer submit an employment application to the Division of Labor on her behalf. The administrative order stemmed from a decision by the Labor division to deny an application earlier filed by AGSO Inc. for Castaldo. Records showed that Castaldo previously worked for Mary Hazleton as an automotive/air-conditioning technician under a work permit that expired on Sept. 9, 2004.

Flashback

APRIL 10, 2000

Ex-Tinian mayor pleads guilty

Former Tinian mayor James Masga Mendiola on Friday pleaded guilty in the U.S. District Court in connection with cattle rustling in his island municipality just three days before a second jury trial was to resume on the case. He entered into a plea agreement with federal government prosecutors on a misdemeanor charge of conspiracy to conceal goods within the special maritime and territorial jurisdiction of the United States. This carries lighter penalties than the felony offense contained in the indictment filed with the federal court in November, which was tried last February. The trial ended in hang jury after the jurors failed to reach a unanimous verdict.

NMIRF told to recover \$127K

The Public Auditor is pressing for the recovery of close to \$127,000 worth of improper retirement payments made to two former officials of the Commonwealth Ports Authority who allegedly inflate their leave and compensatory time credits to receive higher pension. OPA went even further by suggesting that the matter be referred to the Attorney General's Office should the NMI Retirement Fund encounter problems in the recovery

of the \$126,730.06 in retirement benefits improperly paid to the two former CPA officials. Public Auditor Leo LaMotte asked the Fund to discontinue payments to former CPA Security Chief Joseph A. Reyes, after investigations proved that he is not qualified to receive early retirement benefits.

APRIL 10, 2001

Senate action on 3-year limit law dismisses Chamber

Saipan Chamber of Commerce President Anthony Pellegrino yesterday criticized the double-dealing nature of some senators when they voted for the passage of Senate Bill 12-108 last week. SB 12-108 seeks a two-year moratorium on the three-year limit law, while a body made up of members from the public and private sector study its impact on the CNMI economy and community. Pellegrino revealed that four senators assured him they would vote for an outright repeal of Public Law 11-69 days before their Thursday verdict. But the legislators reportedly backtracked on their promises.

Power shortage looms

Overall efforts by the CNMI government to lure more investors in the Northern Marianas could be in vain due to a looming power shortage caused by the virtually shelved 60 megawatt power plant project on Saipan. Government officials raised this alarm yesterday after reports claimed Enron has decided to pull out from the multi-million project which would have paved the road for a new 60-MW power plant on Saipan. Due to the possible delay in the construction of the power grid, foreign and local investors wishing to put up businesses here are faced with higher costs since they will have to put up their own power source.

\$7M available to meet FSM's COVID-19 needs

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The Joint Economic Management Committee has decided to allocate up to \$7,000,000 from prior-year unexpended Compact of Free Association funding to provide emergency support to the Federated States of Micronesia to address COVID-19 health-related needs.

JEMCO approved the Compact allocation in connection with the FSM government's COVID-19 Response Framework and Budget. Funds provided to Yap, Chuuk, and Kosrae States will be used to strengthen hospital and quarantine infrastructure and support outreach by health personnel to the outer islands of Yap and Chuuk during this global COVID-19 pandemic.

U.S. Department of the Interior Assistant Secretary Insular and International Affairs, Douglas W. Domenech lauded JEMCO's quick review and decision. "I am pleased that the JEMCO moved decisively to approve these Compact funds," said Domenech. "The FSM is among the few remaining countries in the world yet to report any positive COVID-19 cases; however, their health infrastructure and small populations face the serious risk of being completely overwhelmed without necessary preparations. This funding will help the FSM be as prepared as possible during this unprecedented time."

"The United States is a proud partner and ally of the FSM and this important partnership is embodied in the JEMCO through the collab-

» \$4.2 million initially approved for Yap, Chuuk, and Kosrae states

orative efforts and work of its members and staff" said Interior Department Office of Insular Affairs director Niko-lao Pula, who is the JEMCO chairman. "I have instructed the Office of Insular Affairs team that manages these funds to ensure they are disbursed to the FSM quickly for the

benefit of the people of Yap, Chuuk, and Kosrae."

"The United States government, through the Department of the Interior, is proud to commit another \$4.2 million to assist the Federated States of Micronesia in its COVID-19 response efforts," said U.S. Ambassador to the FSM

Carmen G. Cantor.

The allocation of Compact Sector grant funds for the FSM will be divided as follows:

- Yap State: \$1,650,000 to be used to build quarantine facilities, equipment, personnel, and general operations in support of COVID-19 response.

- Chuuk State: \$1,403,800 to be used for personnel, interisland travel, and general operations in support of CO-

VID-19 response.

- Kosrae State: \$1,205,922 to be used for the temporary construction of 24 COVID-19 quarantine isolation rooms.

- Pohnpei State: pending submittal

Yesterday's announcement supplements the \$416,918 in infrastructure maintenance funds previously approved and announced on April 3, 2020, that will go toward re-

pair of COVID-19 quarantine facilities in Chuuk State.

For more information about the JEMCO and their responsibilities under the Compacts of Free Association, visit <https://www.doi.gov/oia/compacts-of-free-association>. For more information about the work of the Office of Insular Affairs, visit <http://www.doi.gov/oia> or follow on Twitter @ASIAADomenech. (PR)

UOG ROTC cadets will still be commissioned in May

The commissioning ceremony for the University of Guam's Reserve Officers Training Corps cadets will take place as scheduled on May 23.

The ceremony could potentially be virtual because of the conditions caused by the pandemic, but the UOG ROTC cadets will not be delayed in receiving the "Gold Bars" of the second lieutenant rank.

"They've earned it," said Lt. Col. Thomas Anderson, professor of military science at the university. "They've put in the hard work to develop their character and grow as leaders. The nation and our island need our ROTC cadets out there as officers providing leadership during this critical moment in time."

In coordination with the university, the ROTC program converted to virtual instruction on March 16, and the seniors are continuing their coursework and requirements to become second lieutenants in the U.S. Army upon graduation.

Cadet Christelyn Lopez, who will complete her graduate degree in public administration and become an

officer in May, said that although the pandemic brings many uncertainties, "I find comfort in establishing a habitual routine of physical fitness in the mornings or evenings, and that has kept me grounded and focused on continuing my studies and remembering my goals to becoming an Army officer."

As part of her ROTC curriculum this semester, Lopez had the opportunity to interview a UOG ROTC alumnus about life as an Army officer.

"It's really inspired me to stay grounded to my path," she said.

Cadet Kortney Camacho, cadet battalion commander for UOG ROTC, acknowledged that adjusting to the new online learning environment has not been easy.

"Being adaptable and patient is the key to succeeding this semester and preparing for the future," Camacho said. "I think the biggest challenge and lesson I could grab from the coronavirus situation is that no matter how hard and definitively you plan, the future isn't promised."

UOG's ROTC program was established in October 1979 and is celebrating 40



University of Guam ROTC cadets Christelyn Lopez, left, and Kortney Camacho participate in Land Navigation Training on March 13 at the university's experimental research station in Inarajan. They will both be commissioned as U.S. Army officers on May 23.

UNIVERSITY OF GUAM

years of producing dynamic leaders for Guam, the Pacific, and the United States of America. (PR)



New commander for Guam Air National Guard

A change of command ceremony was held on Friday, April 3, at the Guard's Readiness Center in Barrigada. Col. Christopher Faurot, incoming commander, salutes Brig. Gen. Johnny S. Lizama, right, Assistant Adjutant General - Air, Guam National Guard, as he assumes command. Also pictured is Chief Master Sgt. Luis Camacho, second from left, guidon bearer; and Col. D. Graham Botha, second from right, outgoing commander, via Facetime.

GUAM NATIONAL GUARD

Botha, participated via Face-time as he was adhering to quarantine policies.

Additionally, less than 10 service members were the room, social distancing was practiced, and all participants were wearing personal protective equipment.

Lizama thanked Botha for his leadership for the past 16 months. "I'd like to thank you for your outstanding service. Being commander is not an easy job. It's one of the loneliest jobs, but it's also one of the most rewarding jobs you'll ever have. Thank you for taking care of the men and women

of the Guam Air National Guard. Thank you for being a leader. For those that needed leadership and guidance, thank you for being that pillar of leadership".

In a traditional change of command ceremony, the guidon would have been passed

to the incoming commander in front of all airmen of the Guam Air National Guard. However, the ceremony still held true to military tradition, and all customs and courtesies were followed and given to the leaders present. After Botha relinquished command, Faurot saluted and said, "Sir,

I assume command." All authority and responsibility for the 254th Air Base Group transfers immediately to him. Additionally, the trust and allegiance of all airmen transfers to their newly appointed commander.

Faurot thanked Maj. Gen. Esther J.C. Aguirre, The Adjutant General of the Guam National Guard, for the opportunity. "I look forward to taking this organization and moving it forward and getting it through this current COVID-19 crisis. Command at any level is an honor," he said. (PR)

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Quake in Farallo de Pajaros

At 6:27am on April 3, 2020, a report of a 5.2-magnitude earthquake occurred 17 kilometers northwest of Farallon de Pajaros, Northern Mariana Islands. The U.S. Tsunami Warning Center did not issue any tsunami warnings or advisories. For more information, call the CNMI State Warning Point at 237-8000. (PR)

Traffic court cases rescheduled

The CNMI Office of the Clerk of Court, Superior Court would like to notify individuals with traffic citations, cases pursuant to a court order issued by Superior Court Presiding Judge Roberto C. Naranja that were initially scheduled for April 2, 2020, are rescheduled to May 14, 2020, at 9am.

All parties with traffic citation(s) scheduled for hear-

ing (arraignment) during the following date will be held at the Supreme Court courtroom of the Guma Hustisia.

For additional information, you may contact the Office of the Clerk of Court at telephone number 234-4253, 783-8417, or 783-8522. (PR)

Transfer station, landfill hours

The Department of Public Works has announced revised operation hours at the Lower Base Transfer Station and Marpi Landfill.

The Lower Base Transfer Station will be open all week from 7:30am to 1pm, except Wednesday. For more information, call (670) 322-2745 (Lower Base office).

Also, the Marpi Landfill will be open all week from 7:30am to 1pm, except Wednesday. For more information, call (670) 322-2761 (Marpi Landfill Office). (PR)

In a ceremony that ensured all guidelines were followed with regards to COVID-19 policies, the Guam Air National Guard held a change of command ceremony last Friday, April 3, at the Guard's Readiness Center, in Barrigada.

Col. Christopher "Frenchy" Faurot took command of the Guam Air National Guard's 254th Air Base Group during a ceremony officiated by Brig. Gen. Johnny S. Lizama, Assistant Adjutant General - Air, Guam National Guard, at the Guard's Readiness Center, in Barrigada, while the outgoing commander, Col. D. Graham

Opinion

Saipan Tribune

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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EDITORIAL

Sanders, Biden now need each other to reach their goals

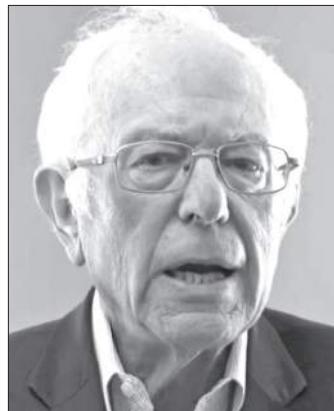
As U.S. Sen. Bernie Sanders drops out of the presidential race on Wednesday, he leaves behind a Democratic Party reshaped by his two White House bids.

No candidate this year, or in modern campaigns past, has hammered the issue of the nation's wealth inequality as vociferously and effectively as Sanders. He has attacked the barriers to health care, education and housing, raising the pitch of the debate to an unprecedented level.

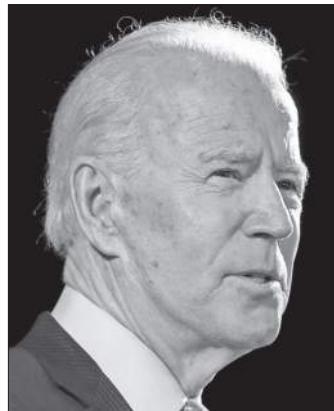
The challenge now for the party's presumptive nominee, former Vice President Joe Biden, will be to embrace Sanders' issues—and his followers—while hewing a more politically and financially pragmatic approach that's palatable for most Americans.

The anxiety and insecurity of poverty that Sanders sought to address have been laid bare by the coronavirus shutdown of much of the country's economy. In the weeks and months ahead, as we plunge deeper into recession, more people will struggle to pay their bills and access health care.

The presidential campaign, now solely between Biden and President Donald Trump, will be like no other. Trump's mercurial behavior was already certain to make the race unpredictable. The pandemic and the nation's economic implosion will make it triply so.



Sanders



Biden

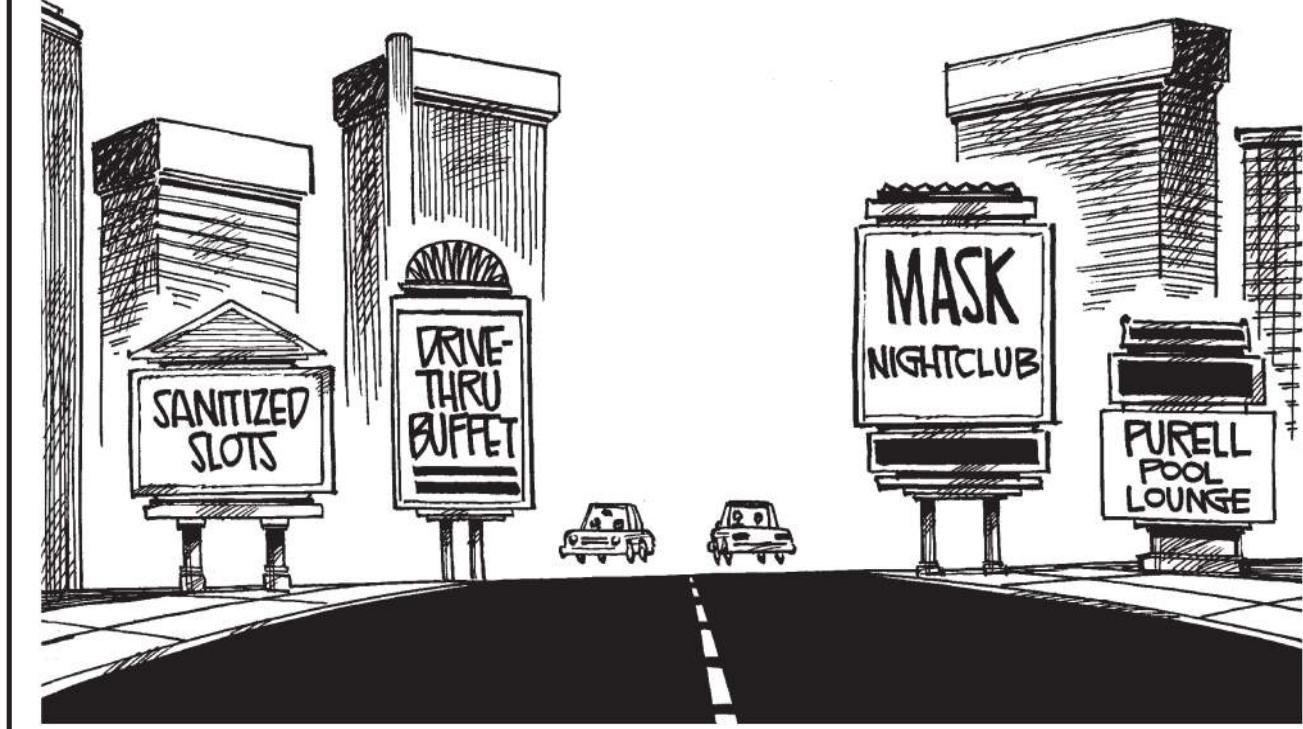
Biden will bring the empathy that Trump lacks. But, to succeed, Biden must build a big tent—and for that he needs Sanders and his followers. Conversely, for Sanders to succeed in his goals, now that he has left the big stage, he needs Biden.

He has no alternative. On the issues Sanders cares about, the nation has regressed under Trump, as the president has sought to undermine rather than improve upon President Barack Obama's health care plan; increased the economic

See SANDERS on Next Page

VEGAS AFTER THE PANDEMIC

DIST. BY KING FEATURES SYNDICATE INC.

MIKE SMITH
LAS VEGAS IN 2020

The key to beating the coronavirus? Innovation

We call ourselves a nation of innovators. As one who has taught and written about the innovation process for more than 30 years, I believe it can be a lens that provides a strikingly different view of all that is being done to fight COVID-19.

Innovation starts with identifying unmet needs and designing and putting into practice what is needed to meet those needs.

Overcoming COVID-19 is the ultimate unmet need. What has become clear from the painful experience of the last three months is that there are three key innovations needed to meet its challenge.

Flatten the curves: There is not one big curve, there are many. This innovation would focus on the many hot spots where the fight is already underway. The nation has health care providers who are fully engaged, capable and heroic in treating COVID-19 victims. But they can't get ahead of the virus without fully funded and comprehensive testing to learn who has the virus, including when no symptoms are present. The person leading this part of the effort would be clear about the enormous scale of testing needed and the resources required to get the job done.

It is one thing to say there are millions of tests out there. It is a travesty that so many people still say they have symptoms but cannot get a test. Even if we are late in getting this testing underway, it is still needed as new hot spots emerge and more feasible as testing techniques improve. At the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in March, President Donald Trump said that "as of right now and yesterday, anybody that needs a test (can have one)." It wasn't true then and it still isn't. It should be.

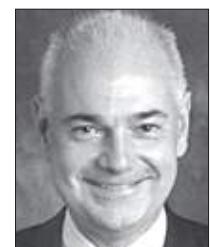
Testing data will set the stage to flatten the curves, and provide the information needed to build the top-to-bottom logistics system this innovation calls for. It includes knowing what is needed and where, and the supply chain that will move each item—protective equipment, ventilators and anything else needed to fight the battle at hand—to exactly where it is needed when it is needed.

This nation has enormous expertise in logistics. There is no reason we cannot know exactly where each piece of equipment is going from the moment it is manufactured to the person who will use it. There would be no more health care providers saying they need masks and federal officials saying the masks exist, go find them. Each state would be integrated into this federally led logistics plan. To use the well-worn World War II analogy, we did it with millions of troops and supplies. We can certainly do it now.

Reopen the economy: This innovation is based on building confidence and again testing is key, but testing of a different type. It is the testing that will tell us, before controls are lifted, if a region is virus-free or if it is just waiting to explode into a hot

By THOMAS D. KUCZMARSKI
Chicago Tribune

Thomas D. Kuczmarski is the president of Kuczmarski Innovation, an international innovation consultancy based in Chicago.



spot. It will include tests that can be used by individuals to see if they and the people they interact with are free of the virus. It will reveal who has antibodies. With widely available and easy-to-use testing, people will have the confidence to go back to work, school or dinner with a friend. There is plenty of talk about the need to reopen the economy, but no sign of a clear plan to meet such an obvious need. Sure, it would be expensive, but cheap compared with the alternative.

Develop the vaccine: This is the innovation that will eliminate our fear once and for all. In the early 1950s, fear of polio was second only to fear of nuclear war among the American people. The sense of relief when Jonas Salk announced his vaccine was enormous. When he announced the vaccine in a radio interview with the legendary broadcaster Edward R. Murrow, Salk was asked who would own the patent. "Well, the people I would say," he replied. "There is no patent. Could you patent the sun?" The leader of the COVID-19 vaccine effort would take into account everything from coordinating and funding the massive research effort already underway to a fully funded plan for making it available to all.

Leadership is clearly an issue. We see a lot of speakers at Trump's daily press briefings, but I challenge you to tell me who is responsible for what. Imagine a briefing in which the president said: "My friends, as you know, we face three huge overlapping needs as we meet and beat the COVID-19 challenge. I will now let the leader of each of these three elements update you on progress and challenges."

Imagine also an organization chart that would show each of the key people, their primary responsibility, and to whom each reports. It would have the president at the top with three people immediately below.

We are seeing a lot of action, but action is not a substitute for strategy. Innovation is needed to get us to the other side of the COVID-19 challenge as quickly as possible.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Famine on the islands

The NMI faces critical issues on two fronts: decrease in local economy and the deadly global virus that threatens everybody within 30 feet of an infected person. The decrease in the global economy has hit and devastated the NMI equally hard.

In the process, economic reduction has forced the administration to pare down the number of employees in government of some 3,000. News article has it that some 50% would either be furloughed or released or both. Didn't know we have this many piggy baggers feeding off taxpayers' contributions.

Excess baggage shows lack of collective planning on the part of the administration obviously lackadaisical how it disposes hard-earned taxpayers' money. It could have used public funds for real programs to help the poor in the villages. But an understanding what fiduciary duty entails is the missing equation.

The economic decrease is a solid negative we can do nothing about. When it crash-lands it hits long and hard, sending the NMI into a scramble to hold on to anything it could grab.

Thus guarding scarce resources turns into a task in perpetuity. Said Magoo disgustingly, "Ai, wen natting, den natting!" But we sometime boast deficit spending, chancing what's constitutionally prohibited.

Decreases

Airlines have cut flights to and from the islands. The only thing flying is the faithful pair of white doves that visit my backyard at dawn for breakfast. Otherwise, I end up humming a fearful *12 Days of Christmas*.

Recent news has it that hotel occupancy here is down by 84%. Definitely, it leaves our mini-tourism industry doing the *mea culpa*.

The deathly message about the coronavirus has equally forced

silence in the villages as if there's a huge wake. Or is it in observance of Holy Week? It isn't surprising the prayer of *mea culpa* from the elderly who understand the wraths of the scourge that is basically biblical in every sense. I could only watch in hopeful prayers as dusk replaces dawn, daily, wrapped in mild confusion.

Something's woefully wrong at home. Or have you any idea what the persistent silence and sense of hopelessness depict? It's also reflected in the troubled faces of our people everywhere! Whatever happened to fiduciary duty to improve the lot of villagers?

It's bad news to the core that may explode from the village level, indicating dissatisfaction with the way things are at this juncture. EVERbody home? Village sentiment is no longer rhetorical and you could see it if you cruise by villages to get a feel of life in failed leadership land.

Status?

What is the extent of the virus spreading across the islands? Has it forced small and large business shuttering doors, including the release of workers? With the way decrease in economic activities has taken a nosedive I expect reduction in major ways we've never seen since 1978.

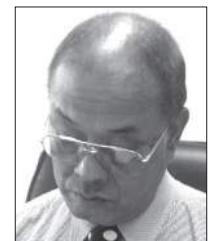
I'm sure employees are seriously quizzing what happens to the first family home or filial needs if he/she is released from work. Is there a federally established program here that could provide temporary cushion for folks whose work hours are reduced or released from work altogether?

Amidst the uncertainty and decrease in the economy why would you reduce salaries of employees by 25%? Is this the fitting agony you're leveling against employees caught in miserable poverty while literally struggling to make ends meet?

The filial misery now requires use of hydroxychloroquine for

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.

Special to the *Saipan Tribune*



*John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the *Saipan Tribune* and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the *Saipan Tribune*.*

people to survive the bad times. Is the respiratory aid available at your shop and how much do you charge for it? Would you accept federal coupons for this purpose?

In fact, it may do you good taking a step back to see folks pining for help, any help, in sheer painful situations. No worries, I've walked this path before, thus the clarity of understanding what destitution entails.

Your 25%

The obvious decrease in the local economy prompted by the deadly coronavirus has the concurrent effect of bringing everybody's budget down to pennies, nickels, and dimes.

Appalling that PSS is clamoring to retain its 25% to focus improving upon the quality of instructions. Wasn't this the same hypercatalectic excuse it fronted last year only to raise salaries? EVERbody home? I mean the lights are on so someone must be snoring somewhere inside, yeah?

Hombre, our reading comprehension is sufficiently adequate to discern half-cocked schemes presented in deceitful fashion! You've failed once. Is there a need to reconfirm failure?

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Message to parents of MHS students

First and foremost, I hope that you are all keeping safe during this challenging and trying time. The COVID 19 pandemic has brought about challenges and uncertainties. Above all, ensuring your child's safety is always our priority. It is for this reason that the Board of Education and the Commissioner of Education, Dr. Alfred Ada, has decided to end school year 2019-2020.

We understand that aside from school closure, the changes that COVID-19 has brought into your homes have compromised your comfort and normal ways of life. Adapting to all changes may be stressful in itself. Everyone in your household has probably felt and experienced the effects. The emotions and experience can be very enduring. With that said, we look out for the overall being of our students. Our school website will offer resources that your family can avail of in dealing with these difficult times. Please know that our counselors are also listed in our school website if your child needs to reach out and talk. We are here for you!

Although our physical campus has been shut down, it is still our goal to educate your child through different means and forms. We want to ensure that your child continues to engage in enrichment activities that will enhance and expand their academic skills. Despite the administrative leave, our teachers, counselors and staff have been working endlessly in planning the forward movement. As approved by the Board of Education, your child's third quarter grade will be used as the second semester grade. If your child is an underclassman (9th, 10th, or 11th grade) and has passed the third quarter, then your child has successfully passed the second semester. If your child did not pass third quarter, he or she will be given an "Incomplete" and will be afforded the opportunity to make up for the class during school year 2020-2021. All underclassmen will be able to access enrichment activities for their grade level on our school website (www.marianashighschool.com) or our school Facebook page (Marianas High School). Enrichment activities will not be graded.

As approved by BOE, if your child is a senior and has successfully passed third quarter, then he/she would have completed the graduation requirements and will be certified a graduate. If your child is a senior and did not pass the third quarter, then he or she

will be receiving a learning packet via online or paper based, in order to earn a pass for his/her respective class. Our counselors have been contacting our seniors to determine whether they opt to receive learning packets via online or paper based. So far they have reached out to the majority of our seniors. There are currently 96 seniors that have not been reached yet due to inactive phone numbers. Beginning April 9, your child will be contacted by his/her counselor to inform them of their graduation status. As you may already know, BOE and COE have issued a directive canceling all graduation and promotion ceremonies for this school year. It is truly heart-wrenching as we know that our students have been looking forward to this prestigious event in their lives. Please do know that this was a difficult decision to make, but safety is our utmost priority. Graduates will still receive their diploma.

Below is a timeline of the activities that will take place:

April 6th-8th, 2020	Teachers will finalize and submit final grades for the 3rd quarter.
April 9th-10th, 2020	Counselors/Admin will reach out to seniors who failed to determine a method of receiving packets (online/ paper based)
April 13th-14th, 2020	Paper based packets will be produced. Online packets will be sent out.
April 20th, 2020	Packets will be distributed via online or at the campus.
May 15th, 2020	Packets due. Will quarantine for five days. Paper based packets need to be quarantined immediately.
May 20th, 2020	Teachers will begin grading packets.
May 28, 2020	Teachers will export grades
June 3rd, 2020	Admin will evaluate seniors and certify for graduation.

We will be arranging days and time for the following:

1. Report Card Distribution for 2nd semester.
2. Distribution of Diplomas
3. Return of school learning materials (calculator, textbooks, PE equipment)
4. Reimbursement for graduation cap and gowns.

If you should have any question(s) or may require additional

information or assistance, feel free to email me at melanie.sablan@cnmipss.org or call me at 285-0809. Additionally, you can email vice principal Christine Tudela at christine.tudela@cnmipss.org.

We truly miss seeing our students on campus. At this time, although we feel divided by this situation, know that by heart, we are forever united. As dolphins, we will rise above these adversities and continue to be resilient and strong. Please continue to take all precautionary measures to keep safe from the threats of COVID-19. We can't wait for our students to return back to their second home. Stay safe, stay blessed and we love you all.

Melanie S. Rdiall

Acting principal, MHS

SANDERS

From Page 10

divide with tax cuts for the wealthy that drove the country deeper into debt while the economy was strong; and undermined national attempts to address climate change.

While Sanders' purist progressive campaign was unfettered by the reality of the nation's political map, Biden seems to recognize that the key to Electoral College victory will lie in centrist swing states like Wisconsin, Michigan, Pennsylvania and Florida. Biden doesn't have the luxury, nor does he have the political inclination, to indulge in the same uncompromising approach.

The question will be whether Sanders can accept that. Whether he embraces Biden—only figuratively in these times of physical distancing—as he failed to do with Hillary Clinton four years ago. Whether he acknowledges the political reality that, while Biden might not be the senator's perfect candidate, he at least cares about the same issues.

What Sanders does next, in the days and weeks and months to come, will help determine the fate of Biden's presidential quest. While Sanders was never able to expand his base and increase turnout of young voters as he promised, he nonetheless has a large and loyal following. He must now marshal them behind Biden as he failed to do for Clinton.

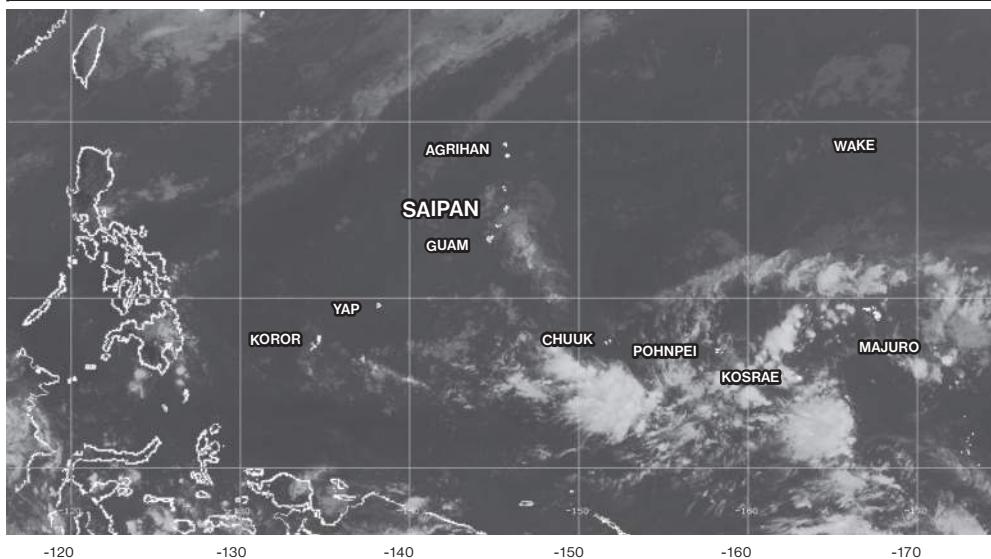
To succeed in his goals, Sanders must convince his followers, from their perspective, to not let the perfect become the enemy of the good.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
88°	77°	87°	76°	87°
77°	87°	77°	88°	77°
88°	77°	87°	76°	87°
88°	77°	87°	77°	88°
88°	77°	87°	77°	88°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 8:03 AM, THURSDAY, APRIL 9, 2020

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Infrared satellite shows a trade-wind disturbance bearing down on the Marianas. The bulk of the activity will pass south of Guam, however the Marianas will not necessarily be left out totally. The buoys reveal combined seas of 4 to 6 feet, composed mainly of east trade-wind swell, with a bit of north to northeast swell mixed in.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
OFFICIAL SEAL

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

GOVERNMENT RESOURCE LISTING AS OF MARCH 27, 2020



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC)
Monday - Friday
Customer Service & Customer Service
8:00 AM - 1:00 PM
Tel: (670) 664-4282
Pay bills online at www.cucgov.org or via phone by calling toll free 1-855-729-2282



Department of Community and Cultural Affairs Nutrition Assistance Program (NAP)
Monday - Friday
8:00 AM - 3:00 PM
Tel: (670) 237-2801/2802



Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)
Accepting Calls From Existing Customers Only
Tel: (670) 287-1475



Division of Youth Services (DYS) On-Call
Saipan: (670) 285-2780 / 285-2781 / 287-1773
Tinian: (670) 287-3268
Rota: (670) 287-2553



Department of Public Works (DPW) Solid Waste Management Division
Lower Base Transfer Station
OPEN ALL WEEK EXCEPT WEDNESDAY
7:30 AM - 11:00 AM
Tel: (670) 322-3745

Marpit Landfill
OPEN ALL WEEK EXCEPT WEDNESDAY
7:30 AM - 3:00 PM
Tel: (670) 322-2761



Office of the Attorney General Civil and Criminal Divisions
Monday - Friday
8:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Tel: (670) 237-7500/7600



Department of Finance Division of Revenue & Taxation CASHIER ONLY
Monday - Friday
7:30 AM - 4:30 PM
Tel: (670) 664-1000



Division of Customs Services
OFFICE: OPEN DAILY
8:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Seaport: Monday - Friday
8:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Chalan Kanoa Post Office
Monday - Friday
7:30 AM - 4:30 PM
Saturday
7:30 AM - 11:30 AM

Office of the Public Defender
Monday - Friday
8:30 AM - 3:00 PM
Tel: (670) 234-6503

MICRONESIA		
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	86° / 77°
Palau	Thunderstorms	86° / 78°
Yap	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	87° / 81°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	84° / 80°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	84° / 80°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	84° / 80°

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:06 AM	6:30 PM
Saturday	6:05 AM	6:30 PM
Sunday	6:04 AM	6:30 PM
Monday	6:04 AM	6:31 PM
Tuesday	6:03 AM	6:31 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	7:45 AM	8:48 PM
Saturday	-	8:36 AM	9:50 PM
Sunday	-	9:29 AM	10:51 PM
Monday	-	10:23 AM	11:49 PM
Tuesday	-	11:19 AM	-

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NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

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COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

GOVERNMENT RESOURCE LISTING AS OF MARCH 27, 2020

COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION

COVID-19 Health Tent
Patients arriving at CHCC with respiratory symptoms or fever will be screened outside of the main CHCC facility in a tent near the main hospital entrance on the upper level.
Operating Monday - Friday (7:00 AM - 6:00 PM)
Saturday - Sunday (8:00 AM - 5:00 PM)

Mental Health Care Line
For mental health support and coping skills
Please call (670) 285-1856/1857
Monday - Sunday (7:30 AM - 7:00 PM)

Outpatient Clinics
Family Care Clinic: Monday - Friday (7:30 AM - 4:30 PM) and Saturday (8:00 AM - 5:00 PM by appointment only)

Women's Clinic: Monday - Friday (7:30 AM - 4:30 PM)

Children's Clinic: Monday - Friday (7:30 AM - 4:30 PM)

Pharmacy
Monday - Friday: 8:00 AM - 6:00 PM
Saturday, Sunday and Holidays: 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM
Patients can call ahead to refill prescriptions.
Have your prescription number ready.
Tel: (670) 236-8798

Immunization Clinic
For child vaccinations, please visit the CHCC Children's Clinic
For adult vaccinations, please visit CHCC Family's Care Clinic

Tuberculosis/Hansen's Prevention Program
Patients of these programs will be contacted by program staff for more information.

HIV/STD Prevention Program
Patients of these programs will be contacted by program staff for more information.

Breast and Cervical Cancer Screening Program and Nicotine Cessation Programs are temporarily unavailable.

Cafeteria

The cafeteria has adjusted their hours to Monday - Friday 7:00 AM - 1:00 PM. We are limiting the number of visitors in the cafeteria to 10 people at one time.

Dental Clinic

The CHCC Dental Clinic is currently open for dental emergencies only. Dental emergencies include: heavy bleeding from the mouth, tooth trauma, swelling or infection, and severe toothaches (pain prevents you from eating or sleeping and is does not respond to over the counter pain medication).

Visitors to CHCC

All visitors to the CHCC will be screened, and their temperature taken. Non-patients with a fever will not be allowed in the facility. No guests are allowed in the CHCC hospital. Patients who are admitted to the hospital will be limited to one caretaker at a time. Outpatient visits to the clinics are limited to the patient and a maximum of one other person. For example, if a child has an appointment in the Children's Clinic, only one parent or guardian may accompany them. Parents with multiple children should leave other children with a caretaker. Please plan accordingly.

Dialysis

Temporarily not allowing visitors and caregivers to sit with patients on dialysis during treatment. Patients on dialysis, please call the CHCC Dialysis Center ahead of time at (670) 236-8303/4 if you are experiencing a new cough, fever, shortness of breath, or any other symptoms that are unusual for you.

Funerals

If you plan to visit the CHCC chapel for a funeral, you will be asked to limit the number of visitors in the chapel at one time. This is done to increase the physical space between individuals so we can avoid the spread of illness and protect the safety of our health care facility. Your cooperation is highly appreciated.

SOCIAL DISTANCING TO BE IMPLEMENTED AT ALL OFFICES

COVID-19 HOTLINE TEL: (670) 285-1352 /1542/1672/1845

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AROUND THE GLOBE		
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	68° / 57°
Beijing	Sunny	73° / 43°
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	75° / 64°
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	81° / 70°
London	Partly Cloudy	75° / 52°
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	66° / 51°
Manila	Mostly Sunny	93° / 79°
Melbourne	Showers	57° / 52°
Miami	Thunderstorms	90° / 74°
New York	Windy	52° / 38°
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	61° / 45°
Paris	Mostly Sunny	77° / 54°
Busan	Showers	57° / 46°
Rome	Sunny	72° / 46°
Salem	Partly Cloudy	69° / 43°
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	58° / 49°
Seoul	Sunny	70° / 43°
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	55° / 45°
Washington		

Business

Islandride Delivery now ready to serve

By BEA CABRERA
beacabreraasaipan@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

While many businesses are temporarily closing down due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Digital Saipan's Islandride Delivery launched their service last Wednesday that aims to lend an extra hand to business owners in the retail and restaurant business and individuals in the community who opt to stay at home to prevent infection and the spread of the virus by delivering goods, groceries, and food right at your doorstep.

DigitalSaipan Marketing manager Robert Exley said this is the time to think about stepping up and helping the community thrive during this time. "We hope to be able to eliminate five to six people going out by using one person... we currently take no fees from drivers or mer-



BEA CABRERA

DigitalSaipan Marketing manager Robert Exley at the Islandride App launch last January. Among the plans mentioned was Islandride Delivery which aims to deliver goods and food right at your doorstep. This service was launched last Wednesday to answer the needs of the community during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Virus outbreak delivers tech darlings a harsh reality check

Just as the coronavirus outbreak has boxed in society, it's also squeezed high-flying tech companies reliant on people's freedom to move around and get together.

Since the beginning of March, for instance, Uber shares have lost a quarter of their value. Rival Lyft is down 28 percent. Over the same period, the S&P 500 has fallen just 10 percent, even with wild swings along the way. The picture is even less clear for other, still-private "unicorn" companies once valued at more than \$1 billion, such as Airbnb and WeWork.

"What market pressure will mean for all companies is survival of the fittest," said Allen Adamson, co-founder of the marketing firm Metaforce and a business professor at New York University. "If you are going into this storm in a bad shape, it's not going to be pretty."

Just few weeks ago, Airbnb was poised to cash in on a soaring stock market with its

highly anticipated public offering. But with the market now reeling and few people looking to anywhere but home, Airbnb is reportedly racking up millions of dollars in losses while fending off a backlash from hosts who rely on its service to survive.

Hosts were furious when the company told guests they could cancel their stays without penalties. Last week, Airbnb agreed to pay hosts \$250 million to make up for some of the money lost to cancellations.

AirDNA, a data firm that helps property owners set rental rates, says the impact on U.S. Airbnb hosts has been mixed. In New York City, bookings dropped 66% in March, but in outer suburbs they were up as people fled the city. Bookings in Westhampton Beach, N.Y., jumped sixfold. Similarly, bookings in the city of Chicago fell 11% last month, but in St. Joseph, Michigan—a lakeside community within driving dis-

tance—they were up by a factor of four.

Cary Gillenwater, who has an attached guest suite in Amsterdam listed on Airbnb, said 20 guests have canceled reservations between March and June, costing him nearly \$11,000. He had hoped for compensation from the company, but was told that only reservations canceled through Airbnb that specifically mentioned the coronavirus would qualify.

Several of his would-be guests contacted him directly to cancel; he refunded their money, but may be out of luck when it comes to reimbursement. Airbnb didn't immediately respond to a request for comment.

The company got a lifeline of sorts on Monday, when two private equity firms—Silver Lake and Sixth Street Partners—invested \$1 billion in debt and equity in the company. The firms say they expect Airbnb to emerge from the crisis in a stronger position.

chants to aid in alleviating this crisis," he said.

"All money earned goes to our brave delivery people who risk their health to flatten the curve at least for the first month," he added.

Islandride Delivery is one of the services of Islandride App that was launched in January this year, dubbed as Saipan's version of Uber and Grab and offers to transport people, goods, and services through ridesharing. Their pool of drivers have been vetted and completed all the re-

quirements.

Exley said that this will help businesses expand their reach especially restaurants that currently operate via take-out orders only. "We can set up for a small fee an online store presence that will work with this software for any merchant. This includes restaurants, farms, general stores, any place you would normally go to shop," he said.

"This is too important of a time to worry about competition as Eats Easy has a similar service," he added.

For more information, visit their website <http://www.islandride.tk/islandride/deliver1.0.apk> or www.digitalsaipan.com or call (670) 287-9758.

Aside from IslandRide App and IslandRide Delivery, Exley unveiled plans of opening the website "IslandRideStore.com" in the near future at the IslandRide launch last January. That is envisioned as a digital marketplace, where the community can buy and sell goods, furniture, appliances etc.

"The IslandRide Store is a medium where the community can sell goods to one another, making trade and exchange convenient for the community and have IslandRide drivers deliver the goods right at your doorstep," he said.

For more information, visit their website <http://www.islandride.tk/islandride/deliver1.0.apk> or www.digitalsaipan.com or call (670) 287-9758.

Jobless claims report Thursday could hit 7 million or higher

WASHINGTON (AP)—The government is set to report another shocking level of unemployment claims Thursday even after nearly 10 million people applied for benefits in the previous two weeks because of business shutdowns from the coronavirus.

The number will likely keep increasing, in part because many states are still clearing out backlogs of applications for unemployment aid. And with more companies running through their cash cushions as the virus-related shutdowns persist, they are resorting to layoffs to save money.

As job cuts mount, here are five aspects of the bleakest U.S. job market in memory.

APPLICATIONS FOR UNEMPLOYMENT AID KEEP RISING

Some analysts project that another record will be set by the number of claims filed for the week that ended April 4, which will be reported Thursday at 8:30 am. Jesse Edgerton, an economist at JPMorgan Chase, forecasts that 7 million people sought benefits that week. That would top the previous week's stunning record of 6.6 million.

Up to 50 million jobs are vulnerable to coronavirus-related layoffs, economists say—about one-third of all the jobs in the United States. That figure is based on a calculation

of positions that are deemed non-essential by state and federal governments and that cannot be done from home. It's unlikely all those workers will be laid off or file a jobless claim. But it suggests the extraordinary magnitude of unemployment that could result from the pandemic.

Beth Ann Bovino, chief economist at S&P Global Ratings, said she thinks layoffs will send the unemployment rate to 15% next month, with at least 13 million jobs lost. Consider that during the Great Recession, which ended in 2009, unemployment never went above 10%.

"It's unbelievable that I am saying this," Bovino said. "It's mind-boggling."

significant contingent of self-employed and gig workers.

ECONOMY IS LIKELY IN A DEEP RECESSION

The data on the U.S. economy is also bleak. With the vast majority of the country enduring business shutdowns, economic activity has slowed to a near-halt. Janet Yellen, the former chair of the Federal Reserve, said Monday that the economy would likely shrink at a 30% annual rate in the April-June quarter—a contraction that would be unmatched in records dating to World War II.

"This is a huge, unprecedented, devastating hit," Yellen said.

WHICH STATES ARE WORST HIT?

In last week's report, more states reported sharp increases in applications for unemployment benefits than in the previous week. A key reason was that more states and localities adopted stay-at-home orders against the virus. Forty-six out of the 50 states reported a rise in benefit applications, with only Rhode Island, Minnesota, Nevada and New Hampshire reporting declines, which will likely prove temporary. The biggest states—California, Texas, and New York—still reported huge increases. In California, claims jumped 27% to more than 850,000.



LEADING INDICATORS

S&P
2,736.50
+1.50
+0.05% ↑

DOW
23,296.00
+50.00
+0.22% ↑

NASDAQ
8,176.00
-13.75
-0.17% ↓

In U.S. dollar terms

EXCHANGE RATES

Australian Dollar	1.61
British Pound	0.81
Canadian Dollar	1.40
Chinese Yuan	6.94
Euro	0.92

Hong Kong Dollar

7.75

Indian Rupee	75.65
Japanese Yen	108.94
Malaysian Ringgit	4.29
New Zealand Dollar	1.66
Philippine Peso	49.54

Russian Ruble

74.86

Singapore Dollar	1.43
South Korean Won	1,192.92
Swiss Franc	0.97
Taiwan Dollar	29.38
Thailand Baht	32.80

Nation

As pandemic deepens, Trump cycles through targets to blame

NEW YORK (AP)—First, it was the media that was at fault. Then, Democratic governors came under fire. China, President Barack Obama and federal watchdogs have all had a turn in the crosshairs. And now it's the World Health Organization that's to blame.

President Donald Trump is falling back on a familiar political strategy as he grapples with the coronavirus pandemic: deflect, deny and direct blame elsewhere.

As he tries to distance his White House from the mounting death toll, Trump has cycled through a long list of possible scapegoats in an attempt to distract from what critics say were his own administration's missteps in slowing the spread of the coronavirus on American shores.

The strategy relies on validation from supportive media personalities and Republicans, evoking White House tactics during other challenging times for Trump's presidency. The effort is taking on more urgency during a once-in-a-century health crisis playing out just seven months before voters go to the polls.

The list of those Trump has blamed is lengthy, and shifting:

Democratic governors for alleged mismanagement at the front lines of the crisis. The media, first for hyping the threat of the virus and then for not giving the administration credit for its response. Federal



In this April 7, 2020, photo, President Donald Trump calls on a reporter for a question as he speaks about the coronavirus in the James S. Brady Press Briefing Room of the White House in Washington.

inspectors general, believed to be conspiring to make the White House look bad. The Obama administration, for not adequately preparing. China, initially absolved of responsibility, then accused of covering up worrisome health data. And now the WHO, from which Trump has threatened to withhold funding.

Trump himself owns up to no mistakes.

Last month, as the nation began to lock down, Trump declared "I don't take responsibility at all" for a lack of testing. And when asked this week if he would have responded to the crisis differently had he seen a January memo from a senior adviser warning about the potential severity of the virus outbreak in the U.S., the president was blunt.

"I couldn't have done it any

better," he said.

In the face of extraordinary electoral headwinds, finding fault elsewhere has become the directive for the president's allies, according to four White House officials and Republicans close to the White House. They spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak publicly about private conversations.

With one eye firmly on his November reelection prospects, Trump at times has bristled against tough public health recommendations and has urged a rapid restart to the nation's economy. He has tried to drown out Joe Biden, the presumptive Democratic presidential nominee, and has attempted to blame the former vice president for bureaucratic failures.

Cabinet members, his campaign apparatus and congressional Republicans.

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Trump has transformed the

Some doctors moving away from ventilators for virus patients

NEW YORK (AP)—As health officials around the world push to get more ventilators to treat coronavirus patients, some doctors are moving away from using the breathing machines when they can.

The reason: Some hospitals have reported unusually high death rates for coronavirus patients on ventilators, and some doctors worry that the machines could be harming certain patients.

The evolving treatments highlight the fact that doctors are still learning the best way to manage a virus that emerged only months ago.

They are relying on anecdotal, real-time data amid a crush of patients and shortages of basic supplies.

Mechanical ventilators push oxygen into patients whose lungs are failing. Using the machines involves sedating a patient and sticking a tube into

the throat. Deaths in such sick patients are common, no matter the reason they need the breathing help.

Generally speaking, 40% to 50% of patients with severe respiratory distress die while on ventilators, experts say. But 80% or more of coronavirus patients placed on the machines in New York City have died, state and city officials say.

Higher-than-normal death rates also have been reported elsewhere in the U.S., said Dr. Albert Rizzo, the American Lung Association's chief medical officer.

Similar reports have emerged from China and the United Kingdom. One U.K. report put the figure at 66%. A very small study in Wuhan, the Chinese city where the disease first emerged, said 86% died.

The reason is not clear. It may have to do with what kind

daily White House coronavirus task force briefing into a substitute for his canceled rallies, treating the James S. Brady briefing room like a stage in Ohio, Florida or Wisconsin. He has sparred with reporters, mangled facts and, at times, distanced himself from the advice of his own public health team.

There is no "The buck stops here," like the sign once found on President Harry S. Truman's desk.

"George H.W. Bush used to say that no one wants to hear the president of the United States say, 'Oh, woe is me.' And yet Trump is betting on the reverse," said presidential historian Jon Meacham. "Since ancient times, leadership has been about wearing a mask of command. Trump is the opposite — a bundle of insecurities, neediness and wants."

Trump allies point to the president's actions — such as suspending direct flights with China and, later, Europe — as measures that kept the nation safe and said that his brashness and sense of urgency have improved the response by both the government and the private sector.

"A big part of the reason why President Trump was elected was to be that bull in the china shop, to take those brash, declarative actions," said Jason Miller, Trump's 2016 campaign communications director. "He was elected because we are a 'right now' society, and he will be rewarded by voters for doing whatever it takes to keep people safe."

of shape the patients were in before they were infected. Or it could be related to how sick they had become by the time they were put on the machines, some experts said.

But some health professionals have wondered whether ventilators might actually make matters worse in certain patients, perhaps by igniting or worsening a harmful immune system reaction.

That's speculation. But experts do say ventilators can be damaging to a patient over time, as high-pressure oxygen is forced into the tiny air sacs in a patient's lungs.

"We know that mechanical ventilation is not benign," said Dr. Eddy Fan, an expert on respiratory treatment at Toronto General Hospital. "One of the most important findings in the last few decades is that medical ventilation can worsen lung injury—so we have to be careful how we use it."

Feds loosen virus rules to let essential workers return

WASHINGTON (AP)—In a first, small step toward reopening the country, the Trump administration issued new guidelines to make it easier for essential workers who have been exposed to COVID-19 to get back to work if they do not have symptoms of the coronavirus.

Dr. Robert Redfield, director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, announced Wednesday at the White House that essential employees, such as health care and food supply workers, who have been within 6 feet of a confirmed or suspected case of the virus can return to work under certain circumstances if they are not experiencing symptoms.

The new guidelines are being issued as the nation mourns more than 14,000 deaths from the virus and grapples with a devastated economy and medical crises from coast to coast. Health experts continue to caution Americans to practice social distancing and to avoid

returning to their normal activities. At the same time, though, they are planning for a time when the most serious threat from COVID-19 will be in the country's rear-view mirror.

President Donald Trump said that while he knows workers are "going stir crazy" at home, he can't predict when the threat from the virus will wane.

"The numbers are changing and they're changing rapidly and soon we'll be over that curve. We'll be over the top and we'll be headed in the right direction. I feel strongly about that," Trump said about the coronavirus, which he called "this evil beast."

"I can't tell you in terms of the date," Trump said, adding cases could go down and then once again "start going up if we're not careful."

At some point, he said at his daily briefing, social distancing guidelines will disappear and people will be able to sit together at sports events. "At some point we expect to

be back, like it was before," he said.

Dr. Anthony Fauci, the nation's top infectious disease expert, said if the existing guidelines asking people to practice social distancing through the end of April are successful in halting the spread of the virus, more relaxed recommendations could be in order.

He said the White House task force was trying to dovetail public health concerns with practical steps that need to be in place when the 30-day guidelines end at the end of the month so the nation can "safely and carefully march toward some sort of normality."

If, by fall, things start to return to normal, Americans will still need to wash their hands frequently, sick schoolchildren should be kept home and people with fevers need to refrain from going to work, Fauci said during an online interview Wednesday with the editor of the Journal of the American Medical Association.

Asia

Taiwan protests WHO leader's accusations of racist campaign

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP)—Taiwan's foreign ministry on Thursday strongly protested accusations from the head of the World Health Organization that it condoned racist personal attacks on him that he alleged were coming from the self-governing island democracy.

The ministry expressed "strong dissatisfaction and a high degree of regret, and raised the most solemn protest." Taiwan is a "mature, highly sophisticated nation and could never instigate personal attacks on the director-general of the WHO, much less express racist sentiments," the statement said.

Taiwan's 23 million people have themselves been "severely discriminated against" by the politics of the international health system and "condemn all forms of discrimination and injustice," the statement said.

On Wednesday, WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus accused Taiwan's foreign ministry of being linked to a months-long campaign against him amid the COVID-19 pandemic. At a press briefing, Tedros said that since the emergence of the novel coronavirus, he has been personally attacked, including receiving at times, death threats and racist abuse.

"This attack came from Taiwan," said Tedros, who



In this Feb. 24, 2020, file photo, Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director General of the World Health Organization (WHO), addresses a press conference about the update on COVID-19 at the World Health Organization headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland. AP

is a former Ethiopian health and foreign minister and the WHO's first African leader.

He said Taiwanese diplomats were aware of the attacks but did not dissociate themselves from them. "They even started criticizing me in the middle of all those insults and slurs," Tedros said. "I say it today because it's enough."

42 Thais who went to Indonesian religious meeting have virus

BANGKOK (AP)—Health authorities in Thailand say more than half the people returning from a trip to a mass religious meeting in Indonesia have been found to be infected with the coronavirus.

Forty-two of the 76 all-male Muslim pilgrims who arrived on a charter flight on Monday were found to be carrying the virus when they were tested on Tuesday.

Thailand on Wednesday confirmed 111 new coronavirus cases, including the 42 returnees, bringing the country's total to 2,369, including 30 deaths.

The Muslim group had traveled to Sulawesi island in Indonesia on March 17 to attend a ceremony organized by Jamaat Tabligh, a Muslim missionary movement.

More than 8,000 pilgrims reportedly had arrived at the meeting site by the time officials canceled the event, citing the health hazard.

The basis of his allegations were unclear.

Tedros was elected with the strong support of China, one of five permanent veto-wielding members of the U.N. Security Council and which claims Taiwan as its own territory. He has firmly backed Beijing's claims to have been open and transparent about the outbreak, despite strong evidence that it suppressed

early reports on infections, while echoing its criticisms of the U.S.

At China's insistence, Taiwan has been barred from the U.N. and the WHO and even stripped of its observer status at the annual World Health Assembly. At the same time, it has one of the most robust public health systems in the world, and has won praise for its han-

dling of the virus outbreak.

Despite its close proximity to China and the frequency of travel between the sides, Taiwan has reported just 379 cases and five deaths.

U.S. and Taiwanese officials met online last month to discuss ways of increasing the island's participation in the world health system, sparking fury from Beijing, which opposes all official contacts be-

PH backs Vietnam after China sinks fishing boat

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The Philippines on Wednesday expressed solidarity with Vietnam after Hanoi protested what it said was the ramming and sinking of a Vietnamese fishing boat by a Chinese coast guard ship in the disputed South China Sea.

The Department of Foreign Affairs in Manila expressed deep concern over the reported April 3 sinking of the boat carrying eight fishermen off the Paracel Islands. The incident happened at a time when a common approach was crucial in confronting the coronavirus pandemic, it said.

"COVID-19 is a very real threat that demands unity and mutual trust," the department said. "In the face of it, neither fish nor fictional historical claims are worth the fuse that's lit by such incidents."

China claims virtually the entire South China Sea and has built several islands equipped with military installations in the area, one of world's busi-

est shipping lanes. Vietnam has been the most vocal opponent of Beijing's territorial assertiveness.

The Philippines' Department of Foreign Affairs recalled that 22 Filipino fishermen were left floating in the high seas after a Chinese vessel sank their boat at Reed Bank on June 9 last year. They were rescued by a Vietnamese fishing vessel.

"Our own similar experience revealed how much trust in a friendship is lost by it and how much trust was created by Vietnam's humanitarian act of directly saving the lives of our Filipino fishermen," the department said.

The United States has also

expressed serious concern over the reported sinking of the Vietnamese vessel and called on China to remain focused on supporting efforts to combat the pandemic and "stop exploiting the distraction or vulnerability of other states to expand its unlawful claims

in the South China Sea."

Amid the pandemic, China "has announced new 'research stations' on military bases it built on Fiery Cross Reef and Subi Reef and landed special military aircraft on Fiery Cross Reef," U.S. State Department spokeswoman Morgan Ortagus said in a statement, referring to two of seven islands China built on disputed shoals in the South China Sea.

China has also "continued to deploy maritime militia around the Spratly Islands," she said, referring to a hotly contested group of islands and citing a 2016 decision by an international tribunal that invalidated China's sprawling claims in the South China Sea.

China has said it has the right to build in waters where it exercises sovereignty and has ignored and continued to defy the arbitration ruling.

The Philippines warned that incidents like the sinking of the Vietnamese boat undermine the potential for a

trusting relationship between the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations and China. It cited "positive momentum" in talks between ASEAN and China on a proposed "code of conduct"—a pact to prevent major clashes in the South China Sea, which many fear could be Asia's next flashpoint.

China responded to Vietnam's diplomatic protest and demands for an investigation with its own statement accusing the Vietnamese boat of illegally entering Chinese waters. It said it collided with the Chinese ship Haijing 4301 after conducting "dangerous actions."

All eight Vietnamese sailors were rescued by the Chinese and admitted to wrongdoing, China Maritime Police spokesman Zhang Jun was quoted as saying in a statement.

China seized the islands from Vietnam in 1974 and frequent confrontations have occurred there.

tween Washington and Taipei.

Also at Wednesday's briefing, Tedros sought to rise above sharp criticism and threats of funding cuts from President Donald Trump over the WHO's response to the outbreak.

The vocal defense came a day after Trump blasted the agency for being "China-centric" and alleging that it had "criticized" his ban of travel from China as the COVID-19 outbreak was spreading from the city of Wuhan.

In a further comment on Tedros' remarks, Taiwanese Foreign Minister Joseph Wu tweeted that the island agreed with his assertion that there was, "No need to use COVID to score political points."

"We agree! Yet without evidence, #Taiwan is accused of orchestrating personal attacks. This claim is baseless, without merit & further marginalizes the good work in which the @WHO is engaged worldwide," Wu tweeted.

Tedros had not appeared to have accused the Taiwanese government of being directly behind the attacks, but merely of condoning them.

World

Countries start thinking about easing up on restrictions

NEW YORK (AP)—Even as coronavirus deaths mount across Europe and New York, the U.S. and other countries are starting to contemplate an exit strategy and thinking about a staggered and carefully calibrated easing of restrictions designed to curb the scourge.

"To end the confinement, we're not going to go from black to white; we're going to go from black to gray," top French epidemiologist Jean-François Delfraissy said in a radio interview.

Deaths, hospitalizations and new infections are leveling off in places like Italy and Spain, and even New York has seen encouraging signs amid the gloom. At the same time, politicians and health officials warn that the crisis is far from over and a catastrophic second wave could hit if countries let down their guard too soon.

"We are flattening the curve because we are rigorous about social distancing," New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo said. "But it's not a time to be com-

placent. It's not a time to do anything different than we've been doing."

In a sharp reminder of the danger, New York state on Wednesday recorded its highest one-day increase in deaths, 779, for an overall death toll of almost 6,300.

"The bad news is actually terrible," Cuomo lamented. Still, the governor said that hospitalizations are decreasing and that many of those now dying fell ill in the outbreak's earlier stages.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said it was issuing new guidelines for some workers who have been within 6 feet of someone with a confirmed or suspected infection to go back on the job if they have no symptoms. The guidelines apply to employees in critical fields such as health care and food supply and require they take their temperature beforehand, wear face masks at all times and practice social distancing.

In other developments:

■ Stocks shot 3.4% higher on Wall Street amid the encouraging signs about the outbreak's trajectory. The Dow Jones Industrial Average gained 780 points.

■ U.S. researchers opened another safety test of an experimental COVID-19 vaccine, this one using a skin-deep shot instead of the usual deeper jab. A different vaccine candidate began safety testing in people last month in Seattle.

■ British Prime Minister Boris Johnson spent a second night in intensive care but was improving and sitting up in bed, authorities said.

■ Saudi Arabian officials announced that the Saudi-led coalition fighting Shiite rebels in Yemen will begin a ceasefire starting Thursday. They said the two-week truce was in response to U.N. calls to halt hostilities around the world amid the epidemic.

In China, the lockdown of Wuhan, the industrial city of 11 million where the global pandemic began, was lifted after 76 days, allowing people to come and go. The country on Thursday announced two additional deaths in Wuhan but no new cases there.

Wuhan residents will have to use a smartphone app showing that they are healthy and have not been in recent contact with anyone confirmed to have the virus. Schools remain closed, people are still checked for fever when they enter buildings and masks are strongly encouraged.

Dr. Anthony Fauci, the United States' top infectious-diseases expert, said the Trump administration has been working on plans to eventually reopen the country amid evidence that social distancing is working to stop the virus's spread.



Anxela Iglesias disinfects face masks in Madrid, Spain, Wednesday, April 8, 2020.

UN health agency on defensive after Trump slams it on virus

GENEVA (AP)—In a heartfelt plea for unity, the World Health Organization's chief sought Wednesday to rise above sharp criticism and threats of funding cuts from U.S. President Donald Trump over the agency's response to the coronavirus outbreak.

The vocal defense from the WHO director-general came a day after Trump blasted the U.N. agency for being "China-centric" and alleging that it had "criticized" his ban of travel from China as the COVID-19 outbreak was spreading from the city of Wuhan.

Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, an Ethiopian and the WHO's first African leader, projected humility and minimized his personal role while decrying invective and even racist slurs against him amid the organization's response to the disease. The new coronavirus has infected more than 1.4 million people and cost over 83,000 lives around the globe.

"Why would I care about being attacked when people are dying?" he said. "I know that I am just an individual. Tedros is just a dot in the whole universe."

He dodged questions about Trump's comments, while acknowledging the agency was made up of humans "who make mistakes," and insisted his key focus was saving lives, not getting caught up in politics.

"No need to use COVID to score political points. You have many other ways to prove yourself," Tedros said. "If you don't want many more body bags, then you refrain from politicizing it."

Avoiding any direct mention of Trump, Tedros' comments testified to the often-delicate task faced by U.N. leaders when criticized by member states. That challenge is especially difficult with the United States, the biggest donor to the world body and its offshoots.

WHO Europe regional director Hans Kluge said that with the pandemic at an acute stage, "this is not the time to cut back on funding."

At the White House on Tuesday, Trump first said the United States would "put a hold" on WHO funding, and then revised that to say, "We will look at ending funding." He took aim particularly at its alleged criticism of the U.S. ban on travel to and from China.

"The WHO ... receives vast amounts of money from the United States," Trump said. "And they actually criticized and disagreed with my travel ban at the time I did it. And they were wrong. They've been wrong about a lot of things."

Generally, the WHO has been careful not to criticize countries on their national policies, and it was not immediately clear what specific criticism Trump was alluding to.

UK's Johnson in ICU with coronavirus, condition improving

LONDON (AP)—British Prime Minister Boris Johnson remains in intensive care with the coronavirus but is improving and sitting up in bed, a senior government minister said Wednesday, as the U.K. recorded its biggest spike in COVID-19 deaths to date.

Johnson, the first world leader diagnosed with the disease, has spent two nights in the ICU at St. Thomas' Hospital in London.

"The latest from the hospital is the prime minister remains in intensive care where his condition is improving," Sunak said at a news conference. "I can also tell you that he has been sitting up in bed and engaging positively with the clinical team."

That glimmer of good news came as the number of COVID-19-related deaths in Britain approached the peaks seen in Italy and Spain, the two countries with the greatest number of fatalities. Britain's confirmed death toll

reached 7,097 on Wednesday, an increase of 938 from 24 hours earlier. Italy recorded a high of 969 deaths on March 27 and Spain 950 deaths on April 2.

The figures may not be directly comparable, however. Not all the U.K. deaths reported each day occurred in the preceding 24 hours, and the total only includes deaths in hospitals.

The government's deputy chief scientific adviser, Angela McLean, said that despite the grim death figures, the number of new cases "is not accelerating out of control ... and that is good news."

Johnson, 55, is the most high-profile of more than 60,000 people in Britain who have been confirmed to have the virus.

He was diagnosed on March 26 and still had a cough and fever 10 days later. He was admitted to St. Thomas' Hospital Sunday and moved to the ICU on Monday after his condition deteriorated. Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab is standing in for

Johnson while he is hospitalized.

Johnson spokesman James Slack said earlier Wednesday that the prime minister was receiving "standard oxygen treatment" and breathing without any other assistance.

Johnson's illness has unleashed a wave of sympathy for the prime minister, including from his political opponents. It has also heightened public unease about the government's response to the outbreak, which faced criticism even with the energetic Johnson at the helm.

Britain was slower than many other European nations to close schools, shut businesses and restrict people's movements in a bid to curb infections, and the government has struggled to meet its goal of dramatically increasing the number of individuals tested for the virus.

Britain initially restricted testing to patients in hospitals with coronavirus symptoms, but has begun testing health care workers and their fami-

lies. The government has said even broader testing will be part of the country's exit strategy from the lockdown, and has promised to test 100,000 people a day by the end of April. The current number is about 14,000 a day.

For most people, the coronavirus causes mild to moderate symptoms such as fever and cough. But for some, especially older adults and the infirm, it can cause pneumonia and death.

After a slow start, the government has urged the private sector to get involved. Drug makers GSK and AstraZeneca say they are setting up a lab at Cambridge University capable of performing 30,000 tests a day by the start of May.

Slack defended the government's response.

"We took our decisions based on the best available medical and scientific advice," he said. "We believe we acted with the right measures at the right time."

Off The Wall

Goats invade locked-down Welsh town

LONDON (AP)—Un-baaaaa-lievable: This wild bunch is completely ignoring rules on social distancing.

With humans sheltering indoors to escape the new coronavirus, mountain goats are taking advantage of the peace and space to roam in frisky clumps through the streets of Llandudno, a town in North Wales.

Andrew Stuart, a video producer for the Manchester Evening News, has been posting videos of the furry adven-

turers on his Twitter feed and they are racking up hundreds of thousands of views.

He said the goats normally keep largely to themselves, in a country park that butts up against Llandudno. But now emboldened by the lack of people and cars, the long-horned animals are venturing deeper into the seaside town. The U.K. has been in lockdown for the past week to

"There's no one around at the moment, because of the lockdown, so they take their

chances and go as far as they can. And they are going further and further into the town," Stuart told The Associated Press in an interview Tuesday from his parents' pub in Llandudno, where he is waiting out the pandemic.

His videos show the goats munching on people's neatly trimmed hedges and trees in front yards and loitering casually on empty streets as if they own the place.

"One of the videos on my Twitter shows that they were



A herd of goats walk the quiet streets in Llandudno, north Wales, Tuesday March 31, 2020.

on a narrow side street and I was on the other side and they were scared of me. They were edging away from me. So they are still scared of people," Stuart said. "But

when there's hardly anyone around on the big streets, they are taking their chances, they are absolutely going for it. And I think because it's so quiet, and there's hardly anyone around to scare them or anything, that they just don't really care and are eating whatever they can."

For most people, the new coronavirus causes mild or moderate symptoms, such as fever and cough that clear up in two to three weeks. For some, especially older adults and people with existing health problems, it can cause more severe illness, including pneumonia, and death.

Cuteness alert: Zoo Miami shows off clouded leopard kittens

MIAMI (AP)—Providing exactly what's needed in these trying times, Zoo Miami has shared images of two clouded leopard cubs.

The male and female have been secluded in a den with their mother, Serai, since their Feb. 11 birth so that they could properly bond while avoiding external stress, according to a news release from the South Florida zoo.

Zookeepers took the kittens Tuesday to check their development and give them their initial vaccines. Both offspring appear to be thriving, and the mother continues to be attentive and nursing them on a regular basis, officials said.

"Amid all of the stressful news that we are all dealing with, I hope that this can bring a smile to some of your faces!" the zoo's communications di-



In this Feb. 26, 2020 photo made available by ZooMiami, newborn clouded leopards are held by a staff member for their neonatal exams at the zoo in Miami.

AP

rector, Ron Magill, wrote as he shared the images. "Hopefully, once this pandemic has run its course, the public will be able to return to the zoo to personally see these precious new additions!"

Clouded Leopards are highly endangered in their natural forest habitat in Southern

China, Taiwan and Malaysia. Adults usually weigh 30-50 pounds (13-23 kilograms). They have a very long tail with relatively short legs and large paws, which helps them stay in trees. Their numbers are depleted due to hunting. Their attractive pelts have ceremonial value in many cultures.

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

Town creates neighborhood 'safari' for kids during pandemic

LEXINGTON, Ky. (AP)—A Kentucky town launched a neighborhood "safari" for children during the coronavirus pandemic by displaying stuffed animals in the windows of their homes. The "Cumberland Hill Zoo Walk" was kicked off Sunday morning in Lexington after 60 houses in the community signed up, WKYT-TV reported. "I have challenged kids to have a zoologist notebook and then go around and record the animal sightings," said Marian Guinn, the organizer of the zoo walk. Throughout the week, families in the Cumberland Hill neighborhood will look for animals and submit their findings for a chance to win different prizes. Events like these have been a way for the community to step up and try to help each other through unusual times while also following official guidelines, Guinn said. The community will "make these days be the best they can be," she said.

Truck hauling toilet paper catches fire on Texas interstate

HUTCHINS, Texas (AP)—

A tractor-trailer hauling toilet paper crashed and caught fire near Dallas early Wednesday, spilling the hot commodity all over an interstate. The fire shut down westbound lanes of Interstate 20 near Interstate 45 in Hutchins, the Texas Department of Transportation said.

The driver of the truck is OK, officials said. The toilet paper appeared to be large rolls typically used in stores, restaurants and other businesses. Texas Department of Transportation officials said the load of toilet paper "burned extensively," according to Dallas TV station WFAA. Toilet paper has been in high demand amid the coronavirus pandemic. Producers ramped up production and shipping operations to resupply stores wiped out by consumers buying toilet paper and paper towels in bulk.

Woman who previously won \$50,000 wins \$3M lottery prize

ST. LOUIS (AP)—A St. Louis woman who won \$50,000 in a Lottery game 18 years ago has won again, and this time the prize is much bigger. The Missouri Lottery said Wednesday that Anne Kasal matched all six numbers in the March 11 drawing to win a \$3 million jackpot. The winning numbers were 11, 16, 23,

26, 31 and 38. Kasal won the \$50,000 prize in 2002. The latest winning ticket was purchased at a Schnucks Market in St. Louis.

Fire officials save cold kitten that was stuck on a roof

MARIETTA, Ga. (AP)—A kitten stuck on a roof in the cold was saved by firefighters in Georgia. The 6-week-old kitten was nursed back to health Wednesday after her rescue, Cobb County Fire and Emergency Services said in a post on Facebook. The female kitten quickly recovered after she was given milk, cat food, and was warmed in towels, a fire official told the Marietta Daily Journal.

Cardboard cutouts pose as guests for wedding amid COVID-19

DOWAGIAC, Mich. (AP)—Cardboard cutout wedding guests will make for a not-so-cookie-cutter wedding as a Michigan couple prepares to tie the knot during the coronavirus pandemic. After Amy Simonson and Dan Stuglik's wedding plans were disrupted amid the outbreak, a packaging company donated more than 100 cardboard cutouts to pose as stand-ins for the fam-

ily and friends who couldn't attend the wedding this Saturday because of Michigan's stay-at-home order. Menasha Packaging Co. in Coloma made cutouts to resemble guests tall and short, young and old, with long hair, short hair and ponytails. "(Stuglik) was just looking for a general person shape, but I was able to make a little bit more realistic audience for them," Ted Harris, customer service and design manager at Menasha, told The Herald-Palladium. Stuglik, a Coloma Township police officer, said he'll forever be thankful to Menasha for helping him do something special for his fiancée. "I wanted to do something (creative) so she wouldn't walk down the aisle to an empty church," he said. "That was a painful part, that her wedding was being stripped away from her, but Menasha helped bring a little back."

British man runs marathon in backyard during lockdown

CHELTEHAM, England (AP)—Being stuck at home didn't stop a British man from running an outdoor marathon. James Campbell, a former professional javelin thrower, spent his 32nd birthday on Wednesday doing 6-meter

(20-foot) shuttles from one end of his small backyard to the other after promising to run a marathon if one of his Twitter messages received 10,000 retweets. By the time Campbell completed the marathon in just over five hours, he had raised more than 18,000 pounds (\$22,000) for Britain's National Health Service to help battle the coronavirus pandemic. The effort—labeled the #6metre-gardenmarathon—was live-streamed, with former England soccer great Geoff Hurst among the viewers. Neighbors poked their heads over the backyard fence to give Campbell encouragement. Campbell ran across a patch of grass, some stones and a small patio in 6-meter (20-foot) stretches. He calculated he would have to traverse his yard at least 7,000 times to reach 42.2 kilometers (26.2 miles).

Boat does doughnuts after hitting wave, throws man overboard

WASHINGTON (AP)—A boat that started doing doughnuts after hitting a wave in the Potomac River tossed the driver overboard. It happened around noon Sunday near Washington, D.C.'s Georgetown neighborhood, WTOP-FM reported. A passing mo-

torist helped get the man out of the water and brought him to shore, D.C. Fire said in a post on Twitter. The man was not injured. Authorities were eventually able to get a hold of the empty boat after it continued circling on the waves.

Officers find an alligator while responding to robbery

COLUMBUS (AP)—Columbus Police discovered a live alligator while responding to an alleged robbery involving a gun and an Xbox. Police said that a caller reported a man with a gun in a dispute over the return of a Microsoft Xbox Monday afternoon, the Columbus Dispatch reported. Police arrested charged the man with a parole violation and a felony weapons charge. Officers said they found the 3 to 4 feet alligator in an aquarium in a closet while searching the home. The woman, who lived in the apartment where the altercation took place, admitted to authorities that the alligator was hers and that she did not have the proper permit or insurance. An officer handled the reptile until Ohio Department of Agriculture officials took custody of the alligator. There were three toddlers and several children in the apartment, police said.

Science & Technology

Coronavirus scams: Guard against fraud cures and other cons

By LINDA A. JOHNSON
AP MEDICAL WRITER

TRENTON, N.J. (AP)—Con artists are finding lots of marks amid the COVID-19 pandemic. Watchdog groups and authorities report a surge of complaints about scams targeting people who fear catching the virus or need money due to lost income.

Scams include “investments” in phony COVID-19 cures and charging people in advance for nonexistent home tests, fake protective gear or even overpriced toilet paper that never arrives. Other fraudsters offer “help” finding a new job or quickly getting federal stimulus checks, if people provide bank account and Social Security numbers or pay upfront fees.

The Federal Trade Commission reported that through March 31, Americans filed complaints about losses to coronavirus-related fraud totaling nearly \$6 million.

Kathy Stokes, head of AARP’s fraud prevention program, notes “a significant uptick in reports” to its fraud



This undated photo provided by the U.S. Attorney's Office shows a phony coronavirus cure that a British man tried to smuggle into the United States.

watch network.

And the Better Business Bureau, which offers anti-scam tips, is getting so many virus-related fraud reports that it’s started a COVID-19 category on its scam tracker.

“They’re preying on people who are desperate,” many of them alone, said BBB national spokeswoman Katherine Hutt.

About one-third of people contacting the agency lost money, some hundreds of dollars. The rest wanted to warn others.

To avoid being duped, be super-skeptical. Don’t jump on offers that sound too good to be true. Stop and investigate or seek advice from trusted sources.

Some more tips:

Don’t answer your phone unless you know the caller.

“Use your answering machine,” Stokes said, and don’t call back unfamiliar numbers. If you answer a robocall and are directed to press a number for details on an offer, don’t.

It’s likely a scam.

Beware “spoof” calls. These falsely ID callers as agencies like the IRS, Social Security Administration or Small Business Administration and tell you to call a number for help getting money. Instead, look up that agency’s phone number to check.

“Most of those are phishing scams trying to get your personal or financial information,” or get you to pay a fee, said Paul Rodriguez, acting director of the New Jersey Division of Consumer Affairs.

Consider the source. Government agencies contact people by mail, NOT by phone, text, social media or email.

Don’t fall for pitches offering drugs or nutritional supplements to cure or prevent infection by the coronavirus, or at-home virus test kits. They don’t exist, and the first time you hear about one won’t be from a stranger; it’ll be on the news.

Dozens of drugmakers are researching treatments and vaccines, but none will be

available for many months.

Question possibly true things, like emails and online ads offering hard-to-find hand sanitizer, sterile gloves and masks. Many people have reported ordering via credit card, but never received the items and the seller vanished.

Unless you’ve previously done business with a company, check its website for reviews, evidence that it’s been in business a while, and a working phone number.

Check out charity solicitations from unfamiliar groups and crowdfunding campaigns, Rodriguez says. If a “charity” requests money, confirm it’s legit via sites like Charity Navigator, which monitors how charities spend money, or see if the charity is registered with your state’s charity regulator, usually part of the state attorney general’s office, consumer affairs agency or department of state.

See something? Say something: Report suspected scams to your state attorney general, the FBI, the Federal Trade Commission or the Better Business Bureau.

TECH Q&A: Caller ID said she called, but she didn't

Q: I'm getting calls on my iPhone 5 from people asking why I called them, even though I didn't. Apparently, my number shows up on their caller ID. What's wrong?

A: Normally, I would suspect that someone—perhaps a scam perpetrator—was faking, or “spoofing,” your caller ID information to get call recipients in your area to answer. (People are more likely to answer local calls.) But in your case, a Google search shows that your Verizon Wireless phone number appears to be assigned to two customers—you and a man who lives in Windsor, Conn., about 9 miles from your home.

That could mean a couple of things: Verizon Wireless may have given two people the same phone number. (Because wireless phone companies reuse disconnected phone numbers, your active number might have been reused by mistake.) Alternatively, there could be an error in one of the many independently operated caller ID databases used by wireless phone companies.

Report this to Verizon Wireless immediately. Show the company your list of recent calls, which should contain the phone numbers of people who mistakenly believed that you had called them. That should help Verizon Wireless track down the source of the problem.

By STEVE ALEXANDER
Star Tribune (Minneapolis)

Steve Alexander covers technology for the Minneapolis Star Tribune. Readers may write to him at Tech Q&A, 425 Portland Ave. S., Minneapolis, Minn. 55488-0002; email: steve.j.alexander@gmail.com. Please include a full name, city and phone number.



Q: When my Windows 10 PC comes out of sleep mode, I get an error message that says “insert disk into removable disk (-:)”. I've updated my printer's driver software, tried to assign different drive letters to my USB devices and plugged my Canon printer and Logitech wireless mouse receiver into different USB ports—but nothing worked. After alternately disconnecting the mouse and printer, I decided the problem must be in the printer's USB connection. Is there anything I can do besides leave the printer unplugged between uses?

A: Several firms do the necessary format conversions, including RetroFloppy (tinyurl.com/ubb4jqpcq) and Data Recovery Masters (tinyurl.com/wmhuqmj).

You can help them by answering these questions:

■ What type of computer stored the data on the disks? (An Apple II? A Mac?)

■ What file formats are stored on the disks? (Microsoft Word, AppleWorks, MacWrite?)

■ Do you want all the files converted to today's Word file format, “. docx”? It's used by Word 2007 and later versions. Earlier Word versions use the “. doc” format.

Science Matters

A face as the brain understands it

New research indicates that the brain somehow, after just a glance at a scene of person, quickly constructs a richly detailed 3-D model of what it is seeing.



1 A typical scene from everyday life: two faces seen from an angle

2 The faces isolated, removing everything but their features

3 The brain then rotates the face into a general 3-D image, as if it were being seen the usual way, from the front

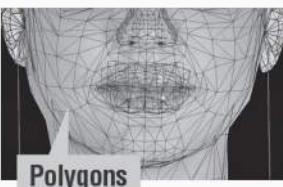
New study
found that this is how the brain registers an image

Seeing the face again
later from a different angle, the brain somehow understands that what it sees matches the 3-D image stored in its memory

3-D models a familiar computer tool

Common computer graphic programs can be used to create lifelike 2-D images of bodies and faces

These images are built onto a “wire frame” network of polygons with straight sides



Polygons



Computer adds textures and color to wire frame

The brain can
quickly perform a series of computations that reverse the steps that a computer graphics program uses, generating a 2-D image of a face or other object

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Source: Ilker Yildirim of Yale University; Josh Tenenbaum of Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Graphic: Helen Lee McComas, Tribune News Service

Life & Style

Boxing glove and painted trays: A look at some gifts from Trump

WASHINGTON (AP)—What world leader could resist a "Million Dollar Baby" boxing glove signed by director Clint Eastwood? Or a decoupage tray featuring a painting of President Donald Trump's Mar-A-Lago resort? Or how about a sports jersey?

The annual list of gifts that Trump has dispensed to foreign leaders is out, and the State Department report reveals some eclectic taste in his gift-giving. The report is sent to Congress.

Among the gifts from the president that carried the most monetary value: a custom pewter tea set for Chinese President Xi Jinping, valued at \$2,629; a limited edition book set of "The Expedition of Lewis and Clark," valued at \$2,500, given to then-British Prime Minister Theresa May; a personalized cricket bat and photo of President Dwight Eisenhower at a match in Pakistan, valued at \$1,650, and given to Pakistan's prime minister, Imran Khan.

The Eastwood-signed boxing glove went to Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and was valued at \$1,789. Abe also got framed, signed photographs of golfing greats Jack Nicklaus and Arnold Palmer, a nod to the two leaders' shared love of golf. The photos were valued at \$2,263.

Working at home tests the family atmosphere of TV morning shows

NEW YORK (AP)—For all the planning that went into "CBS This Morning" putting on a broadcast with its anchors working remotely, no one thought about the pillow.

It sat—slightly crookedly—on a chair behind Gayle King in the makeshift studio set up in her family room. And that pillow, every time the camera caught it, was driving one viewer nuts.

More than most news programs, morning shows on ABC, CBS and NBC thrive by fostering a sense that their personalities are a chummy family. Now, due to coronavirus restrictions, those family members appear onscreen in dislocated boxes, and invite

viewers into their homes instead of vice versa.

The least they can do is straighten out the furniture.

"We're doing the best we can," King replied on-air to the pillow-obsessed fan.

"CBS This Morning" was first evicted from its New York studio on March 12 after someone in the building came down with the coronavirus, but it resisted breaking up its team of King, Tony Dokoupil and Anthony Mason. They traveled to a studio in Washington, D.C. for two days, returned to CBS headquarters then did a week at a nearby theater where Stephen Colbert films the "Late Show" when he has an audience.

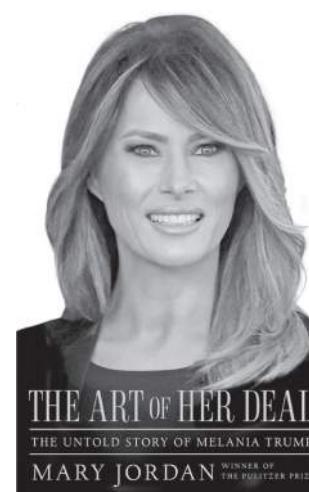
NEW YORK (AP)—A Pulitzer Prize-winning reporter for The Washington Post has written an unauthorized biography of first lady Melania Trump. Mary Jordan's "The Art of Her Deal," which draws upon more than 100 interviews, comes out June 16.

"The picture is one of a woman who is savvy, steely, ambitious, deliberate, and who plays the long game," according to an announcement Wednesday from Simon & Schuster. "With the help of key people who speak publicly for the first time and never before seen documents and tapes, 'The Art of Her Deal' paints a surprising portrait of a determined immigrant and the life she had before she met Donald Trump."

Bocelli: It's not a concert for coronavirus, it's a prayer

NEW YORK (AP)—Andrea Bocelli will sing at the Duomo of Milan on Easter Sunday sending a message of love and hope to the world during the coronavirus pandemic, but the Italian tenor says it's not a concert. Instead, he calls it a "prayer."

"I received this invitation by the mayor of Milan and by the authorities of the church and of course I answered yes. I'm very happy to do this," he said. "Also, it's not a performance.



This cover image released by Simon & Schuster shows "The Art of Her Deal: The Untold Story of Melania Trump" by Mary Jordan. Jordan's unauthorized biography of first lady Melania Trump comes out June 16.

Jordan began working on the book in 2015, well before Donald Trump's surprise victory in the presidential election. She investigated everything from Melania Knauss' childhood in Slovenia to her years as a model to her relationship with her husband. Jordan said in a statement that she found Melania Trump, often portrayed as a reluctant first lady, far more ambitious politically than commonly believed.

"The real Melania Trump is far more interesting than the image that many people have of her," Jordan said. "She is already gearing up for 2020, and she wants to win as much as her husband does."

A Simon & Schuster spokeswoman said that while

Jordan has interviewed Melania Trump in her capacity as a Post reporter, the White House declined her request to speak with her for the book or to respond to written questions.

Financial details for the book were not disclosed. Jordan was represented by Washington attorney Robert Barnett, whose other clients range from former President Bill Clinton to Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell. Jordan's previous books include the bestselling "Hope: A Memoir of Survival in Cleveland," about two of the three women who were kidnapped and held in captivity for a decade. "Hope" was co-written by Jordan's husband and fellow journalist, Kevin Sullivan.

Mom fears daughter's future with her controlling boyfriend

DEAR ABBY: Is my daughter headed into an abusive, controlling relationship, or am I imagining the signs because of my own experience with domestic abuse for many years? She is 18 and, of course, parents are "idiots" who don't understand anything. The young man tries to control where she is, won't let her go anywhere without him, and suspiciously questions her if he thinks she spent too much of her own money.

To me, these are signs of the beginning of years of hell, but to her, they're cute because he "cares," or I don't understand him. Am I being unfair because of my own past?

BEEN THERE IN PENNSYLVANIA

DEAR BEEN THERE: Unfair? NOT AT ALL! You have listed some of the classic signs of an abusive partner, and your daughter is headed for trouble. Please share this column with her because it's important she recognizes more of them:

1. PUSHES FOR QUICK INVOLVEMENT: Comes on strong, claiming, "I've never felt loved like this by anyone." An abuser pressures the new partner for an exclusive commitment almost immediately.

2. JEALOUS: Excessively possessive; calls constantly or visits unexpectedly; prevents you from going to work because "you might meet someone"; checks the mileage on your car.

3. CONTROLLING: If you are late, interrogates you intensively about whom you talked to and where you were; keeps all the money; insists you ask permission to go anywhere

or do anything.

4. UNREALISTIC EXPECTATIONS: Expects you to be the perfect mate and meet his or her every need.

5. ISOLATION: Tries to isolate you from family and friends; accuses people who are your supporters of "causing trouble." The abuser may deprive you of a phone or car, or try to prevent you from holding a job.

6. BLAMES OTHERS FOR PROBLEMS OR MISTAKES: It's always someone else's fault if something goes wrong.

7. MAKES OTHERS RESPONSIBLE FOR HIS OR HER FEELINGS: The abuser says, "You make me angry" instead of "I am angry," or says, "You're hurting me by not doing what I tell you."

8. HYPERSENSITIVITY: Is easily insulted, claiming hurt feelings when he or she is really mad. Rants about the injustice of things that are just a part of life.

9. CRUELTY TO ANIMALS OR CHILDREN: Kills or punishes animals brutally. Also may expect children to do things that are far beyond their ability (whips a 3-year-old for wetting a diaper) or may tease them until they cry. Sixty-five percent of abusers who beat their partners will also abuse children.

10. "PLAYFUL" USE OF FORCE DURING SEX: Enjoys throwing you down or holding you down against your will during sex; finds the idea of rape exciting.

11. VERBAL ABUSE: Constantly criticizes or says blatantly cruel things; degrades, curses, calls you ugly names. This may also involve sleep deprivation, waking you with relentless

li's YouTube channel at 1 p.m. Eastern.

He's crafted and arranged a special set for the event, which will include holy songs like "Ave Maria" and "Sancta Maria."

"I chose some of the most beautiful pieces of sacred artists and I will sing this kind of music," Bocelli said in a phone interview Wednesday from his home in Forte dei Marmi, a seaside town in northern Tuscany.

In total, Italy has more than

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

verbal abuse.

12. RIGID GENDER ROLES: Expects you to serve, obey, remain at home.

13. SUDDEN MOOD SWINGS: Switches from sweet to violent in minutes.

14. PAST BATTERING: Admits to hitting a mate in the past, but says the person "made" him (or her) do it.

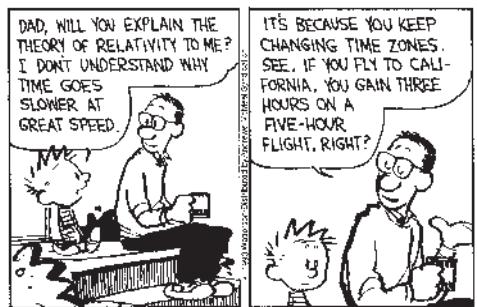
15. THREATS OF VIOLENCE: Says things like, "I'll break your neck" or "I'll kill you," and then dismisses them with, "Everybody talks that way," or "I didn't really mean it."

Anyone at risk should contact the National Domestic Violence Hotline at 800-799-7233 or thehotline.org.

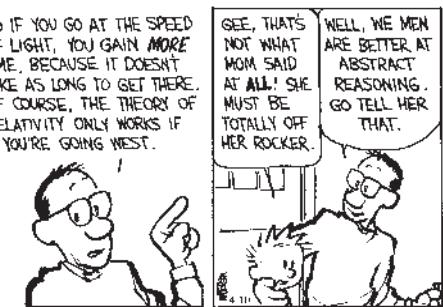
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Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes



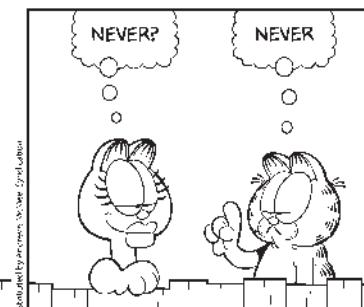
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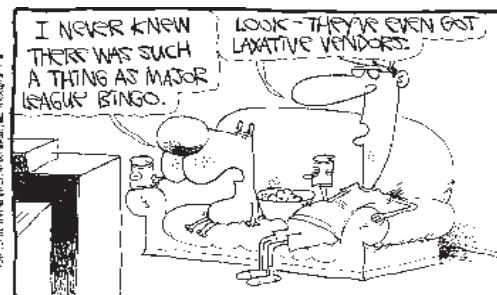


By Bryan Basset

The Duplex



By Glenn McCoy

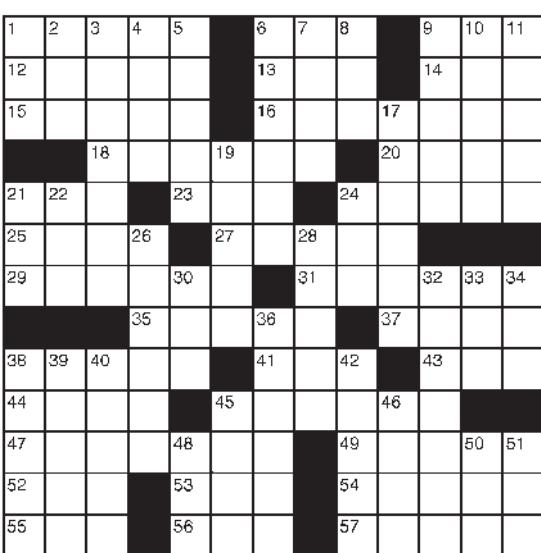


CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	41 — Lingus	DOWN	19 Royal
1 Mexican	43 Oft-	1 TV	crown
6 Nap site	tattooed	21 Samovar	22 Opposite
9 Cover	word	22 Swiss	of paleo-
12 Bit of	44 Author	peak	24 Madrid
grass	Wiesel	3 Capital of	Mrs.
13 Exist	45 Meryl of	Wales	26 Make
14 Big	47 Capital of	4 Garfield's	melan-
bird of	Lithuania	5 Vends	choly
Australia	49 Separated	6 Volcanic	28 Daisy
15 Earth Day	52 First	rock	Mae's
month	lady?	7 Historic	guy
16 Capital	53 Hit	times	30 1040 org.
of Costa	show	8 Lair	32 Capital of
Rica	letters	9 "Span-	Uganda
18 River for-	54 Look	ish" star	33 Id coun-
mations	(into)	Téa	terpart
20 Scott	55 French	10 "No more	34 River
Turrow	article	for me,	blocker
book	56 Signing	thanks"	36 Actress
21 Half of bi-	need	11 Sword	Emma
23 Part of	57 You'll	fights	of "Little
RSVP	get a	17 Pulling	Women"
24 "SNL"	rise out	one's leg	38 Flatten
segments	of it	18	39 Kicking
25 Umps	Solution time: 25 mins.	19	partner
27 Arcade		40 Frasier's	40 Prepared
pioneer		brother	45 "Absolu-
29 "That's		42	lately!"
cheating!"		46	46 Fencing
31 Counted		47 AOL, for	sword
(on)		48	one
35 Sketched		50 Motor	51 Asian
37 Lady		homes	holiday
— ("Pa-			
parazzi"			
singer)			
38 Touches			
down			

Yesterday's answer 4-10



For answers to today's crossword, call
1-900-226-5956 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

STUMPED?

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Alex Pettyfer, 30; Haley Joel Osment, 32; Shay Mitchell, 33; Dion Phaneuf, 35.

Happy Birthday: It's time to make a move. Whether you decide to change your job or your lifestyle, be open to suggestions, and don't be afraid to try something new. You are overdue for new beginnings that will revitalize your way of thinking and doing things moving forward. Change begins within, so start with a plan that helps elevate your mind, body and soul. Your numbers are 6, 13, 21, 24, 36, 44, 48.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Express your thoughts to someone who can offer you sound advice. A financial opportunity is apparent, but you will have to have the vision to see its true potential. A childhood memory will give insight into how best to proceed. ☀☀☀

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Choose your target, and don't stop until you bulldoze your way past the finish line. Refuse to let an obstacle cause you to waffle when the fastest route should be your first choice. Focus and forge ahead. ☀☀☀

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Refuse to let anyone take advantage of you. Walk away from temptation and fast-talking salespeople who are trying to part you from your cash. Learn from the experience, and stay on top of how you use your time, skills and money. ☀☀☀

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Consider what brings you the most joy, and try to incorporate it into how you earn your money. A desire for independence will help you come up

with a plan that will make you self-sufficient. Don't be afraid to try something new. ☀☀☀☀☀

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): It's OK to let someone go first. If you act prematurely, it won't help you get ahead and will probably end up causing you grief. Avoid confrontations, mistakes and regrets. Personal gains should be your goal. Physical fitness and personal growth are favored. ☀☀

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Home, family and a change of scenery will lift your spirits and help you put your life in perspective. Pull everyone you care about together for an event that will challenge you as a team, and it will help build stronger relationships. ☀☀☀☀

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Don't give in to temptation. Stick to the people and projects that bring out the best in you, and you will bypass letting someone take advantage of you. The less you have to be frivolous with or to give away, the better. ☀☀☀

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): A change may be in order, but listen to what others have to contribute before you leap into action. Looking at every option and carefully considering what's in your best interest will help you avoid an emotional or financial setback. ☀☀☀

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): If something doesn't feel or sound right, you probably have reason to worry and need to reassess the situation. Don't believe everything you hear or put yourself in a vulnerable position. It's OK to step back and refrain from making a move. ☀☀☀

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD
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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Don't overdo it. If you offer too much, someone will expect more. You have to consider how best to help others to avoid making them dependent on you. A positive change at home should free up your time, not take more of it. ☀☀☀

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Don't look for an excuse to say no. Honesty is the best policy when dealing with someone who is trying to take advantage of you. Allocate your time to personal growth and your long-term happiness. ☀☀

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Develop an idea you've been mulling over, and you'll discover something that you can do to bring in extra cash. Someone will repay a favor if you ask. You'll learn something valuable from an emotional experience. ☀☀☀☀☀

Birthday Baby: You are persevering, sensible and enthusiastic. You are passionate and relentless.

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

	4		5	8				
5					1			
6				3	2			
						8	4	
1						8		6
5	6							
7		1						9
9					3			
3	7		4			3		

Difficulty Level ★★★★

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

7	3	9	2	6	4	8	1	5
8	2	4	3	1	5	9	7	6
1	6	5	7	9	8	4	3	2
6	4	7	1	5	9	2	8	3
2	9	3	4	8	7	6	5	1
5	1	8	6	2	3	7	4	9
9	8	6	5	4	1	3	2	7
3	5	2	8	7	6	1	9	4
4	7	1	9	3	2	5	6	8

Difficulty Level ★★★

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUVELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backwords. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

SENSITIVE TEETH

Solution: 7 letters

C	E	S	G	N	I	D	N	E	T	I	H	W	T	T
R	E	L	A	R	O	E	S	A	L	I	V	A	N	S
S	E	M	B	V	P	N	C	O	A	S	E	A	U	I
E	E	N	E	I	E	T	S	I	R	H	L	G	H	D
I	G	R	I	N	D	I	N	G	T	A	A	O	N	I
R	A	A	A	A	T	N	S	S	E	R	T	S	S	G
A	R	M	M	R	T	U	A	S	S	P	U	R	R	E
C	E	Y	O	A	G	E	M	M	F	C	S	A	S	S
L	V	C	R	U	D	B	R	U	X	I	S	M	L	T
P	E	R	M	A	N	E	N	T	L	D	U	F	O	I
L	B	S	D	T	M	N	G	L	Y	I	C	O	M	O
A	E	V	R	E	N	I	I	N	C	C	R	W	N	
Q	B	O	N	E	C	N	R	L	I	A	U	D	L	L
U	N	R	O	W	G	A	A	P	P	W	T	E	I	D
E	F	L	O	S	S	C	Y	T						

LeBron: Closure not likely unless Lakers can finish season



LOS ANGELES (AP)— Instead of preparing for a playoff run, LeBron James is mostly spending the spring playing hoops with his teenage sons and enjoying tea time with his young daughter.

And when he isn't binge-watching "Tiger King" with his wife, he is scanning the news for information on whether the coronavirus pandemic will allow the Los Angeles Lakers to finish their impressive season chasing an NBA championship.

James is still optimistic about the Lakers' future, but he also knows safety comes first.

"I don't think I'll be able to have any closure if we do not have an opportunity to finish this season," James said from his home Wednesday on a conference call with Lakers beat reporters.

The Lakers were cruising toward their first playoff berth since 2013 when the NBA season was suspended March 11. They have the Western Conference's best record at 49-14, leading the second-place Clippers (44-20) by 5 1/2 games and trailing only Milwaukee (53-12) in the overall league standings.

The Lakers did it following a thorough roster turnover last summer headlined by the arrival of Anthony Davis. They also persevered through a stressful preseason trip to China, followed by the death of franchise icon Kobe Bryant in a helicopter crash in January.

James' 17th NBA season is obviously unique for many reasons, but he is uncommonly proud of what the Lakers have accomplished so far.

"I can have some satisfaction on what our team has been able to do this year (with) a first-year coach, first-year system, a whole new coaching staff, bringing on so many new pieces to our team this year," James said. "I honestly didn't think that we would be able to come together as fast as we did, just having so many new pieces (and) bringing in Anthony. He spent seven years in New Orleans, so he was coming into a new system, play-



In this March 8, 2020 photo, Los Angeles Lakers forward LeBron James, left, shoots as Los Angeles Clippers guard Paul George defends during the first half of an NBA game in Los Angeles.

14-day isolation.

James will be deeply disappointed if the Lakers don't get a chance to test themselves during a playoff run, yet he realizes what's most important in the upcoming weeks and months.

James initially expressed reluctance about playing games in empty arenas, or the possibility of NBA teams gathering in the same city to complete the season in a form of sports quarantine. The 16-time All-Star selection now says he is up for anything that's safe and smart.

"If it's in one single, isolated destination, if it's Las Vegas or somewhere else that can hold us and keep us in the best possible chance to be safe, not only on the floor but also off the floor as well, then those conversations will be had," James said. "Once this thing gets a good handle on it and the people in the higher ranks understand it, if they know we are safe, then we can make the next step. But the safety is always the most important, and then we go from there."

James isn't yet back at work with Mike Mancias, his personal trainer. Instead, he says he is training with his wife, Savannah, and playing plenty of hoops with Bronny James, their 15-year-old son, at a thoroughly sterilized court owned by a friend. He also shoots hoops outside at his own home with the whole family.

James is doing weekly meditation, but says his mental state is outstanding thanks to his family. He has frequently spoken about missing time with loved ones during the grind of the NBA season, so he is enjoying this intensive togetherness with his kids.

"They wake up every day in a positive mind frame," James said with a laugh. "Maybe one reason is they're not actually in school, so I know they get to sleep in a lot more now. But also they're just so appreciative of life. ... Just being able to see my kids wake up with that positive attitude helps. For me, I wake up, I'm able to get a nice breakfast, and then I train. And when I'm training, I'm always in a very positive state of mind."

ing along with myself, and how we would be able to come together? I thought it would take us a lot longer than it did, but I was wrong. I was

very wrong about that."

And then all that good work abruptly stopped four weeks ago. Two unidentified Lakers players

subsequently tested positive for coronavirus, but the Lakers say James and his teammates are all healthy after they completed their

Kevin Garnett always found Seattle to be a difficult place for opponents. He played in 27 games there during his NBA career, leaving the court as a winner only eight times.

He remembers those days. And respects them, too.

In a wide-ranging interview this week with The Associated Press, Garnett covered plenty of topics, including the announcement over the weekend that he officially is a member of the Class of 2020 for the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame, his relationship with fellow inductee Kobe Bryant, the coronavirus pandemic, and his plans for the next five and 10 years.

But there was also a surprise: Garnett revealed a deep affinity for Seattle, to the point where he said he'd like to see the NBA return to that

KG talks about SuperSonics, Kobe, and Hall of Fame

city -- and said he would bring a team there if he could.

"If I have a dream, I would say that I would love to be able to go and buy the Seattle SuperSonics and reactivate the Seattle Northwest and get NBA loving back going into that area," said Garnett, who starred for Minnesota and Boston and also played for Brooklyn. "I

players—himself, Bryant, Tim Duncan and Tamika Catchings. He raved about each for various reasons; Bryant for his competitive fire, Duncan because they were elite at the same position, Catchings for her body of work.

He said he still savors his battles with Bryant and Duncan.

"I like to think that steel sharpens steel, and I like to think that all three of us pushed each other to be the best that we could be," Garnett said. "To be going in such a class like this, I'm more than honored."

And the news came at a time where the coronavirus pandemic overshadows everything. Garnett has even limited how much news he can absorb, saying too much

of what he sees is "scary."

"I'll be honest, I've just been feeding myself things to stay stimulated and I exercise a lot," Garnett said. "I should be able to run a marathon when this (is) over with. ... I've unplugged from the overall beast of it. I'm feeding myself with books, feeding myself with documentaries."

They are a necessary distraction, in what has been a trying year. Garnett does not have great things to say about 2020, with the pandemic coming when he is still personally reeling from Bryant's Jan. 26 death in a helicopter crash.

"I ain't going to front, man, since Kobe died, it's been like upside down. 2020 has been (awful)," Garnett said. "So, I've just been trying to

maintain and ... appreciating some of the small intangible things and actually enjoying life a little bit or trying to and be productive."

For Garnett, that passion intersects with one of the passions Bryant had: Creating content. Bryant was connecting with people through children's books, documentaries and other projects, and Garnett has a similar diversity in his content plans these days.

Garnett has a company called Content Cartel that he's working hard to continue building now, even when basketball is in its hiatus for at least another several weeks.

"I got stories for every event it feels like," he said. "I want to share that. They're fun stories, they're stuff that

I've survived, they're stuff that I think is compelling, I think it's stuff that younger generation or younger people, or even people period can take from and use as a solution or as influence."

And if he had one piece of advice for players today, as they deal with these uncertain times, it was this: Stay ready.

"Tomorrow is everything," Garnett said. "So I think players obviously need to be locked into tomorrow and trying to create a tomorrow for not just them, but for their families. You've got to stay ready. I would stay as sharp as I could. It's always something that you can do. We're in this all together, man. This ain't someone or one single individual going through it. We, everyone around the globe, are going through this."

Brady leaves Patriots for new challenge



TAMPA, Fla. (AP) — Tom Brady entered his final season in New England with a strong inkling that it would be his last with the Patriots.

The six-time Super Bowl champion who signed with the Tampa Bay Buccaneers in free agency last month said Wednesday on SiriusXM's "The Howard Stern Show" it was "just time" for a change, reiterating he has no hard feelings about coach Bill Belichick not making him a Patriot for life.

"I think he has a lot of loyalty and I think he and I have had a lot of conversations that nobody's ever been privy to, and nor should they be," Brady told Stern during a wide-ranging interview lasting more than two hours.

"So many wrong assumptions were made about our relationship, or about how he felt about me. I know genuinely how he feels about me," the four-time Super Bowl MVP added.

"Now I'm not going to respond to every rumor or assumption that's made other than what his responsibility as coach is to try to get the best player for the team, not only in the short term, but in the long term as well."

With Brady and Belichick leading the way, the Patriots won 17 division titles and appeared in nine Super Bowls and 13 AFC championship games over the past 20 years.

Brady, who'll turn 43 in August, said he entered "uncharted territory as an athlete" when continued to perform at a high level in recent years.

"I was an older athlete, and he started to plan for the future, which is what his responsibility is. And I don't fault him for



AP

In this Dec. 29, 2019, file photo, New England Patriots quarterback Tom Brady calls signals at the line of scrimmage against the Miami Dolphins in the first half of an NFL game in Foxborough, Mass.

my part for the family. ... She felt like I would play football all season, and she would take care of the house, and then all of a sudden when that season would end I'd be like: 'Great, let me get into all my other business activities, let me get into my football training,' and she's sitting there going, 'Well, when are you going to do things for the house? When are you going to take the kids to school?' Brady said.

"I had to make a big transition in my life to say, 'I can't do all the things that I wanted to do for football like I used to,'" he added. "I've got to take care of things with my family, because my family ... the situation wasn't great. She wasn't satisfied with our marriage.

Brady was asked several questions about his relationship with Belichick, who selected him in the sixth round of the 2000 draft—No. 199 overall.

The quarterback insisted there has never been a rift between him and the coach over who was most responsible for New England's success.

"I can't do his job and he can't do mine. So the fact that you could say: 'Would I be successful without him, the same level of success?' I don't believe I would have been. But I feel the same in vice-versa as well," Brady said. "To have him allowed me to be the best I could be. So I'm grateful for that. And I very much believe that he feels the same about me."

that," Brady said of Belichick. "That's what he should be doing. That's what every coach should be doing."

Brady signed a two-year, \$50 million contract with the Bucs last month, joining a team with the worst winning percentage in league history.

Tampa Bay hasn't made the playoffs since 2007 and doesn't have a postseason win since its lone Super Bowl championship run 18 years ago.

"I never cared about legacy. ... I never once, when I was

in high school, said, 'Man, I can't wait for what my football legacy looks like.' I mean, that's just not me. That's not my personality. So why would I choose a different place?

It's because it was just time. I don't know what to say other than that," Brady said.

"I had done everything. I accomplished everything I could in two decades with an incredible organization, an incredible group of people. That will never change," the three-time NFL MVP said. "And no

one can ever take that away from me. No one can ever take those experiences or Super Bowl championships away from us."

Brady also talked about moving his family into a furnished mansion he's renting from Derek Jeter in Tampa, as well as his marriage to supermodel Gisele Bundchen, trying marijuana and alcohol as a teenager but not enjoying the lifestyle, and his college career at Michigan.

The quarterback also spoke

in detail about his decision to skip OTAs in recent years with the Patriots after reading a letter from his wife, who at the time was unhappy with some aspects of their marriage.

"What was important to her, what was important to me was our family and our relationship, and at different times, like any married couple, things need to be changed," said Brady, who said he kept the letter.

"A couple years ago she didn't feel like I was doing

CINCINNATI (AP)—Cincinnati had a list of top targets heading into free agency, and coach Zac Taylor says the Bengals got the players they wanted.

The Bengals announced Wednesday they had reached agreements with eight unrestricted free agents since the new league year started March 18, though all eight still must pass physicals. The Bengals' top targets included defensive tackle D.J. Reader and cornerback Trae Waynes as Cincinnati spent lots of money after going 2-14 in Taylor's inaugural season.

Taylor said the players Cincinnati landed in free agency speaks to how the Bengals are viewed outside their own building.

"It's just encouraging to know that there's a lot of excitement building around our organization right now,"

Taylor encouraged by free agent haul as Bengals rebuild

Taylor said on a Zoom call with reporters.

"Guys are excited to be a part of it and look forward to getting to know those guys. Who knows the next time we'll get a chance to actually meet them physically. But it was certainly a fun process."

Next will come the NFL draft with the Bengals holding the No. 1 overall draft pick and expected to take quarterback Joe Burrow after using the franchise tag on wide receiver A.J. Green last month.

Reader was the biggest piece of Cincinnati's new free agents, agreeing to a four-year, \$53 million deal. The 6-foot-3, 347-pound tackle spent the past four years with Houston, and he has started 52 of his 61 games. He has 154 tackles

with 6 1/2 sacks and was a fifth-round pick out of Clemson in 2016. The Bengals like his versatility.

"Can play a lot of different positions up front," Taylor said. "He can be a three-down player for you and really affect the game," Taylor said. "He's great against the run, really affects the pass during the pass game. Great energy. He's somebody (defensive line coach) Nick Eason has known a long time back to both their Clemson days."

Cornerback Trae Waynes agreed to a three-year contract for \$42 million. The other new Bengals include safety Vonn Bell, linebacker Josh Bynes, cornerbacks LeShaun Sims and Mackensie Alexander, wide receiver Mike Thomas

and guard Xavier Su'a-Filo.

Six of the free agents come from playoff teams this past season, which Taylor said didn't hurt either.

"When you get a guy fresh off a playoff run, that's still very fresh in his mind of how he approached the season, how they attacked it as a team," Taylor said. "It certainly helps our culture when you add guys that have recently been playing for a championship, and obviously that's where we intend to be very quickly."

Six of the free agents brought in also play defense.

Waynes had seven interceptions in his 74 games after being the 11th pick overall in 2015 out of Michigan State by Minnesota. Bell has eight sacks, seven forced

fumbles and seven recovered fumbles in four seasons with New Orleans.

"Trae was certainly a guy we felt good about," Taylor said. "I watched every target he had this year. He brings a lot of toughness to that side of the ball as well, that position as well. He's a hungry guy who's played some good football."

Bynes, who received a one-year contract, now is with his fourth team after playing for Baltimore, Detroit and Arizona. He has 4 1/2 career sacks, four interceptions and three forced fumbles. Sims and Alexander also are on one-year deals.

The Bengals landed Su'a-Filo with a three-year deal the day after free agency started. The 6-foot-4, 310-pound Su'a-Filo has started 53 of 75

games starting his career with Houston before spending the past two seasons with Dallas. Meanwhile, it has long seemed like a virtual certainty that the Redskins will take Chase Young with the second pick in the NFL draft.

If the Cincinnati Bengals select Burrow first overall as expected, the Ohio State pass-rusher and Heisman Trophy finalist would fall into Washington's lap.

The Redskins have taken calls about trading down, but the smart money's still on them sticking at No. 2 and plugging Young into their lineup.

New coach Ron Rivera said on a video call Tuesday, "I'd like to believe in the back of my mind I know what we want to do," and laid out the ramifications of trading back versus getting someone who can help right away.

Swapping tennis rackets to game controllers

MADRID (AP)—The world's top tennis players will swap rackets for game controllers this month after organizers of the cancelled Madrid Open said they will stage a virtual competition to raise funds for struggling professionals amid the coronavirus shutdown.

The tennis season was halted in early March due to the pandemic, leaving players in the lower tiers, who solely depend on tournament winnings, without any chance to earn a living.

The men's ATP Tour and the WTA, which runs the women's circuit, suspended all tournaments until at least mid-July after countries started locking down their borders.

The Madrid Open, an ATP Masters 1000 and a WTA Premier Mandatory event in early May featuring total prize money of \$8.3 million, was one of the events called off.

However, the tournament will now take place on the Tennis World Tour video-game and run from April 27-



In this May 11, 2019 file photo, Rafael Nadal of Spain returns to Greece's Stefanos Tsitsipas during their Mutua Madrid Open Masters match at Caja Magica in Madrid, Spain. AP

30, "with the world's biggest tennis stars squaring off from their own homes," the ATP Tour said.

"We have organized a tournament for the professional players that is as true to the

conventional Mutua Madrid Open as possible, without them having to leave their homes," Madrid Open director Feliciano Lopez said in a statement. "And its goal is not just to entertain; we want

to do our bit during this period, which is so difficult for everyone."

With sport across the world virtually at a standstill due to the spread of the novel coronavirus, some have gone online to

raise funds and provide entertainment for fans.

La Liga organized an online soccer tournament recently while Formula One has also held virtual races.

The online tennis tournament, which has yet to confirm participants, will have 16 men's and women's singles players in each draw and offer a purse of 150,000 euros (\$162,000) for both.

The winners will decide how much they want to donate to their fellow professionals while an additional 50,000 euros will go towards reducing the social impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Alongside the official competition, more funds will be raised from charity matches that will see some big names from the gaming world face professional tennis players.

Both the WTA and the ATP welcomed the concept and said it would provide some much-needed help to lower-tier professionals.



"We look forward to the virtual game, which can serve as a fun source of entertainment while at the same helping to bridge a gap until live tennis returns, while also providing opportunities to help those players in need during this challenging time," WTA CEO Steve Simon said.

Serena-Wozniacki match postponed

Former No. 1 Caroline Wozniacki's farewell to tennis—an exhibition match against good friend Serena Williams—is being postponed because of the coronavirus outbreak.

The last tournament of the 29-year-old Wozniacki's professional career came in January at the Australian Open.

The Dane won her Grand Slam title there in 2018.

She was supposed to face off against 23-time major champion Williams in Copenhagen on May 18 in a match dubbed "The Final One."

Wozniacki wrote Tuesday on Twitter that their exhibition will be rescheduled because "the safety and health of everyone is most important."

She added in another post that tickets already purchased "will still be good, once we pick a new date."

Meanwhile, the group charged with monitoring gambling and punishing corruption in tennis found a near-doubling in the number of suspect matches during the first three months of 2020—an increase tied to the coronavirus pandemic.

MP

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place in the team standings with its 3-0-1 win-draw-loss record, while TanHoldings is in first place with its 4-0-0 mark. Matansa owns a 1-1-2 slate for third place and is followed by Shirley's (1-0-3) and Kanoa (0-1-3).

In the boys U19 division, MP United gained 27 goals to lead the group and gave up four (second best). Kanoa 1 and TanHoldings, which are ahead of MP United in the team standings, collected 20 and 19 goals, respectively, while the CNMI Boys U15 National Team tallied only eight and Kanoa 2 was limited to two.

Kanoa 1, though behind in goals scored is slightly ahead

in the team standings with its 3-1-0 card. TanHoldings is at close second with its 2-2-0 slate, while MP United is also not far behind after taking a 2-1-1 card. The NMI U15 is ranked fourth with only one victory against three losses, while Kanoa 2 has yet to enter the win column this season.

In the girls U17 division, TanHoldings is on top both in the most goals scored (25) and team standings (4-0-0). Kanoa has the second best number of goals (17), but is at the bottom of the rankings with its 1-0-4 record. Southern United has logged only 11 goals, but is in second place in the leaderboard with its 3-0-2 card, while MP United has only one win in four matches and has delivered only eight goals.

AFC's #BreakTheChain reaches milestone

The Asian Football Confederation's #BreakTheChain campaign has reached a new landmark with 100 Asian stars lending their voice towards raising awareness in stopping the spread of COVID-19.

Philippine national team centurion James Younghusband fittingly joins the latest episode alongside Yan Junling of China and Morteza Pouraliganji of Iran, urging communities affected by COVID-19 to remain calm and patient.

The trending campaign has received overwhelming support from 100 Asian stars in two weeks and has shown the AFC's commitment towards raising awareness in stopping the spread of the coronavirus.

In a time when the world comes to grip with the pandemic, Asia's stars have come together to promote unity and



the guidelines put in place by the World Health Organization and health authorities.

"The COVID-19 pandemic has demonstrated how

profoundly selfless and brave our medical and health-care workers are in fighting this outbreak so I would like to dedicate this #Break-TheChain campaign to them," said James Younghusband, who along-side his brother Phil were instrumental in sealing the Azkals' debut qualification at the AFC Asian Cup in the United Arab Emirates in 2019.

"Just as in football, this fight requires stamina and a strong defense. We are in this battle for the long haul so all the more we need to stick together. It is essential that we continue to carry out our responsibilities to break the chain and prevent further

"I understand what people around the world are going through, but if you follow the guidelines from your governments, things will start to get better. At this time, you must take care of your personal hygiene and if your government has imposed a 'stay at home' rule, please make sure that you have enough food for yourself and your family," the three-time Chinese Football Association Super League

ing to healthy eating habits," said the record five-time Tan Siu Lin Foundation/Northern Marianas Sports Association Fame Student Athlete of the Year awardee.

The 18-year-old athlete has been taking online classes since her sophomore year after spending most of her time off-island and representing the CNMI to the World ITF Junior Circuit. Lee is done with her junior tennis career last year, finishing the season with a career-high world ranking of No. 114 and seven titles to her credit.

Besides her seven championships, Lee also made history for the CNMI in her

the Open BNP Paribas in New Caledonia and New Caledonia ITF Junior in 2017 and notched three crowns in 2018 (Northern Marianas Junior Championships and the South Pacific Open Junior Championships and Oceania Open Junior Championships in Fiji). She then got two more in her last year with the World ITF Juniors after winning the South Pacific Open anew and the ITF/CAT North African Circuit in Casablanca, Morocco.

The CNMI player clinched

final year in the ITF Juniors after becoming the first player from the Commonwealth to have played in two Grand Slam events—the U.S. Open (juniors) and Australian Open (juniors).

Lee, who won the gold medal in the doubles event (with Colin Sinclair) of the 2019 Pacific Games in Samoa, was very grateful for her fruitful career in the World ITF Junior Circuit, as her experience in the competition will definitely help her when she faces another challenge in college and suits up for Georgia Tech.

CAROL

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"There were three tournaments I was planning to compete before I enter college. I am scheduled to compete in Asian countries and play in the Korea Pro Circuit that is supposed to be held in June. I was also thinking of competing in Europe and other countries before the COVID-19 pandemic happened," Lee said.

"Now, I can't practice because of the situation, so I am focusing more on my studies, while I am also doing more fitness workouts and stick-



LeBron: Closure
not likely unless
Lakers can
finish season

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Brady leaves
Patriots for new
challenge

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Pacific Games gold medalist Carol Lee is capitalizing on her time away from tennis to finish high school and prepare for her next journey.

 With social distancing in effect and outdoor events highly discouraged amid the COVID-19 pandemic, Lee had to cancel all her tennis-related activities, giving her more time to work on getting her high school diploma.

"I have been pretty busy trying to finish my high school online program," said Lee, who is NCAA Division I-bound this year after receiving a full-ride scholarship from Georgia Tech.

Before joining the Yellow Jackets, Lee is scheduled to compete in several pro tournaments, but her plans had to be canceled due to the pandemic.

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Carol gets ready for next journey



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Carol Lee rushes for a return in one of her World ITF Junior Circuit tournaments last year.

MP United on target; TanHoldings leads



By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

MP United Football Club has scored the most goals in the boys U19 and co-ed U13 divisions of the 2020 NMIFA Spring Youth League, while TanHoldings Football Club is on top of the girls U17 age group.

After four matches in the co-ed U13 division of the league that has been suspended due to the COVID-19 pandemic, MP United managed to collect 25 goals, just two more than the unbeaten and pace-setter TanHoldings Football Club. Matansa Football Club is the third team to have earned 20-plus goals in four games with its 21, while Kanoa Football Club and Shirley's Football Club has



TanHoldings Football Club's Rizza Relucio, left, steps in to deflect a shot from Southern United Football Club's Lilian Podziewski.

nine and six, respectively. MP United also allowed the least goals so far, yielding six, while TanHoldings has given up seven. Matansa, Shirley's,

and Kanoa allowed 17, 25, and 29.

MP United is in second

See MP on Page 23



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
An MP United Football Club player, right, tries to elude a Matansa Football Club defender during their co-ed U13 division game in the 2020 NMIFA Spring Youth League at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.